

LOUD

Stories to Make Your Voice Heard



MOLESTE

LOUD

Stories to Make Your Voice Heard

ANNA CERCIGNANO • ELEONORA ANTONIONI • MAURIZIA RUBINO
FRANCESCA TORRE • LA TRAM • LUCIA BIAGI • VEGA GUERRIERI
CATERINA FERRANTE • LAURA GUGLIELMO • DAVIDE COSTA • ELISA2B
CARMEN GUASCO • MARTA MACOLINO • ALESSIA DE SIO



DARK HORSE BOOKS

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ENGLISH WORKING TRANSLATION BY **ANNA BARTON**

LOUD: STORIES TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Original title: Fai rumore. Nove storie per osare by Various Authors. © 2022, 2024 Editrice Il Castoro Srl. Viale Andrea Doria 7, 20124 Milano. www.editriceilcastoro.it. info@editriceilcastoro.it. This graphic novel was created in collaboration with Collettivo MOLESTE. Cover design by Grazia La Padula. Foreword by Jennifer Guerra in agreement with Oblique Studio, Roma. Project coordination: Francesca Torre, La Tram (Collettivo MOLESTE); Chiara Arienti, Giusy Scarfone (Il Castoro). The script by Davide Costa for his story was published in agreement with Piergiorgio Nicolazzini Literary Agency (PNLA). All rights reserved. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC, registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. Dark Horse is part of Embracer Group. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics LLC. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE: COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Cercignano, Anna, author, artist. | Antonioni, Eleonora, author, artist. | Rubino, Maurizio, 1977- author, artist. | Barton, Anna, 1985- translator.

Title: Loud : stories to make your voice heard / Anna Cercignano, Eleonora Antonioni, Maurizio Rubino [and others] ; English working translation by Anna Barton.

Other titles: Fai rumore. English

Description: First edition. | Milwaukie, OR : Dark Horse Books, 2024.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023052693 (print) | LCCN 2023052694 (ebook) | ISBN 9781506741093 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781506745152 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Women--Violence against--Comic books, strips, etc. | Feminism--Comic books, strips, etc. | LCGF: Social issue comics. | Graphic novels.

Classification: LCC PN6766 .F3513 2024 (print) | LCC PN6766 (ebook) | DDC 741.5/945--dc23/eng/20231121

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023052693>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023052694>

PUBLISHED BY DARK HORSE BOOKS
A DIVISION OF DARK HORSE COMICS LLC
10956 SE MAIN STREET
MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

FIRST EDITION: JULY 2024
EBOOK ISBN 978-1-50674-515-2
TRADE PAPERBACK ISBN 978-1-50674-109-3
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2



PRINTED IN CHINA

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FOREWORD BY JENNIFER GUERRA

“No one can do it for you, but you don’t have to do it alone.”

This gem of a sentence forms the heart of the comic “Two in One” by Francesca Torre and La Tram, which describes how a young woman finds the self-awareness she needs to leave an abusive relationship. It’s a sentence that incorporates two of the central principles that run through *Loud*: self-determination and sisterhood. What you are about to read is a collection of comics created by writers and illustrators from the MOLESTE feminist collective, which was set up with the aim of providing a mutual listening space and to fight against all forms of violence, delegitimization, and discrimination in the world of comics. It is also far more than that, as the stories collected here will tell.

These stories do not simply retell, on paper, episodes of violence—gaslighting, slut shaming, fatphobia, catcalling, and more; more importantly, they express women’s desire to tell our own

stories. Feminist poet Audre Lord famously wrote: “My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you.” That sentence is often cited alone, but the sentence that follows on from it, which is less frequently cited, substantially extends her point: “But for every real word spoken, for every attempt I had ever made to speak those truths for which I am still seeking, I had made contact with other women while we examined the words to fit a world in which we all believed, bridging our differences.”

Silence has been—and often still is—a constant element in female experience. One of the greatest revolutions feminism has brought us is the act of speaking and of making ourselves subjects in charge of our own lives. In our male-dominated cultural and philosophical panorama, the feminist self has well and truly shaken things up and—as Adriana Cavarero points out in *Relating Narratives: Storytelling and Selfhood*—has, for the first time ever, asked women *who are you?* rather than *what are you?* It has asked not about our role but about our identity as women—an identity built in relation to other women and, it is important to add, to marginal identities. In *Loud* the subjects who take back control of their own stories include Ellie, Sabrina, Rose, Laura, Liz, Camilla, and numerous faces without names, which become the faces of all women.

Public discourse around harassment and violence is often framed in the wrong terms. Whenever we move beyond simple numerical statistics, which alone cannot reflect the complexity of real experience, we end up relying on a narrative that reinforces our society’s habitual division of roles: women are narrated as passive objects, as figures who suffer violence with no escape. This victim role is ambivalent and can easily become a trap. So it is

extremely important that we build up a counternarrative that will not only break the silence but also fill it with words that make sense.

Comics, which provide a window into our inner thoughts and build a close rapport with their readers, are likely among the most appropriate media for this purpose. When I read these stories, with their splendid graphics, I had the feeling that they were my own stories. Not so much—or not only—because they describe situations similar to those I have experienced, but because each of us is intimately acquainted with that fear, those struggles, that reliance on other people’s perspectives. “*No one can do it for you, but you don’t have to do it alone*”: it takes enormous effort and incredible willpower to escape violence, whether that violence is part of a relationship or is the result of a mindset that is preventing us from believing in our own freedom. But as you will see, once we’ve taken the first step, we quickly find that we aren’t alone; we never will be. Our sisters walk with us, every step of the way.

Jennifer Guerra

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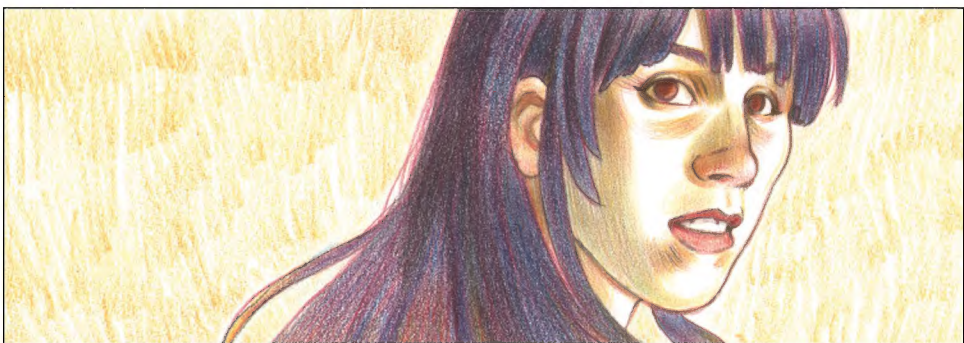
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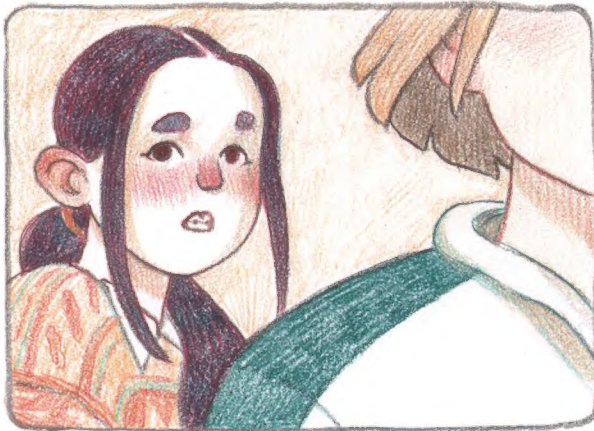
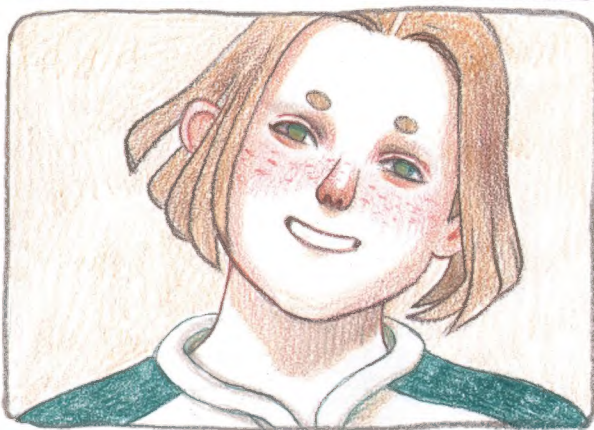
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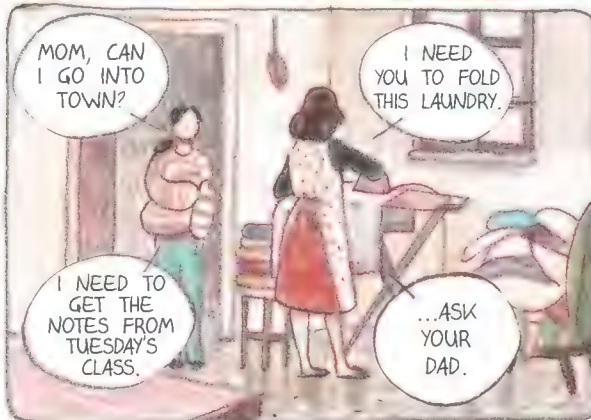
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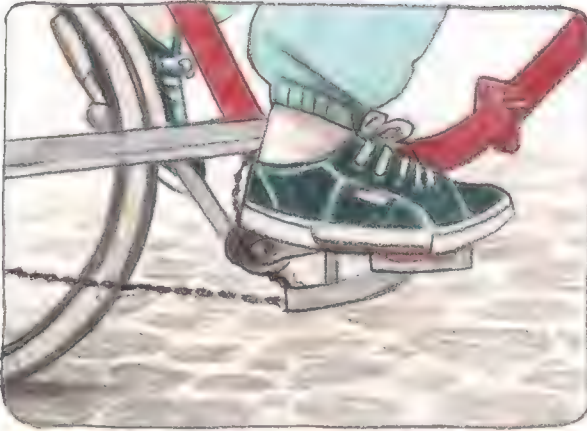
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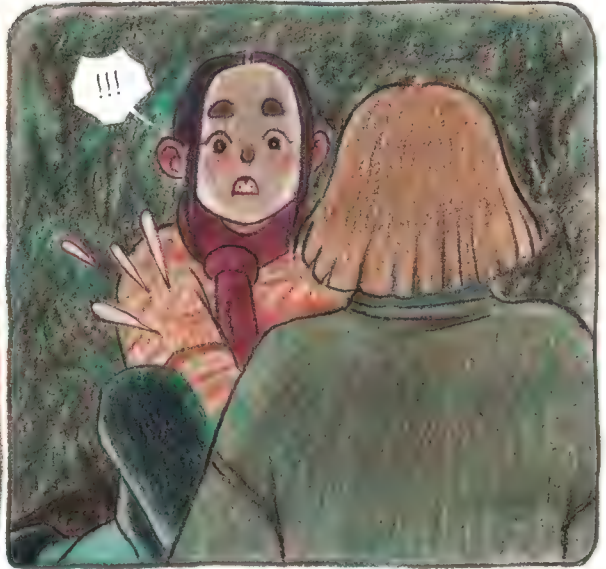


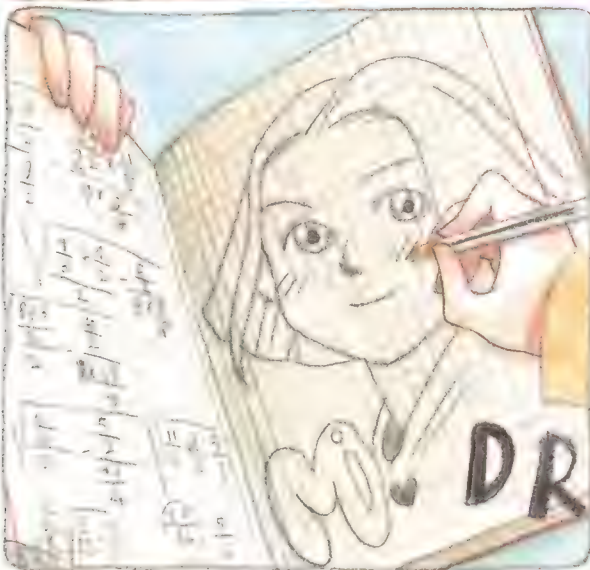


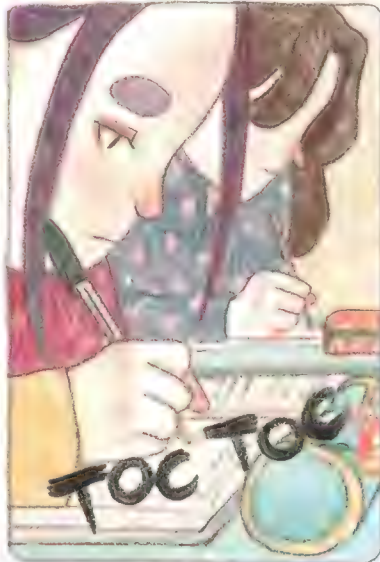












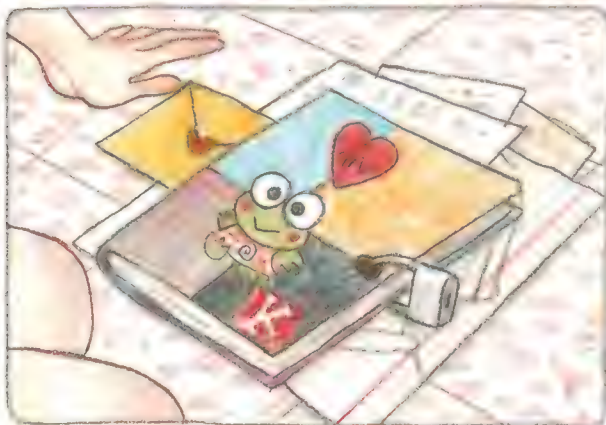






HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA









I'VE BURIED
A BABY.



HER NAME
IS ELLIE AND
SHE'S TWELVE
YEARS OLD.

I'LL COUNT
MY DAYS IN
CAPTIVITY WITH
WHAT'S LEFT
OF HER.



IF I'M THIRSTY, I'LL
BE MY OWN WELL.
IF I'M SAD, I'LL
COMFORT MYSELF.

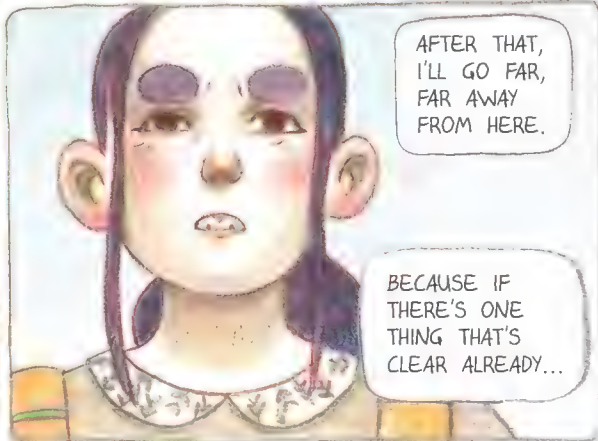
BECAUSE I'M ON
MY OWN.



I'LL STAY
HERE UNTIL
THE END OF
SCHOOL. UNTIL
THEN...

I'LL COPE
ALONE.

A YEAR AND A HALF
OF THIS HELL.



AFTER THAT,
I'LL GO FAR,
FAR AWAY
FROM HERE.

BECAUSE IF
THERE'S ONE
THING THAT'S
CLEAR ALREADY...

IT'S THAT THESE PEOPLE
LIKE TO BE PART OF A
FLOCK: THEY LIKE TO
FEEL SECURE, TRAPPED
BY THEIR MEDIOCRITY.

I'M NOT LIKE THEM, I DON'T
BELONG TO THEM.

AND ABOVE ALL...

I WON'T GIVE
IN TO YOU,
BAND OF
BASTARDS.







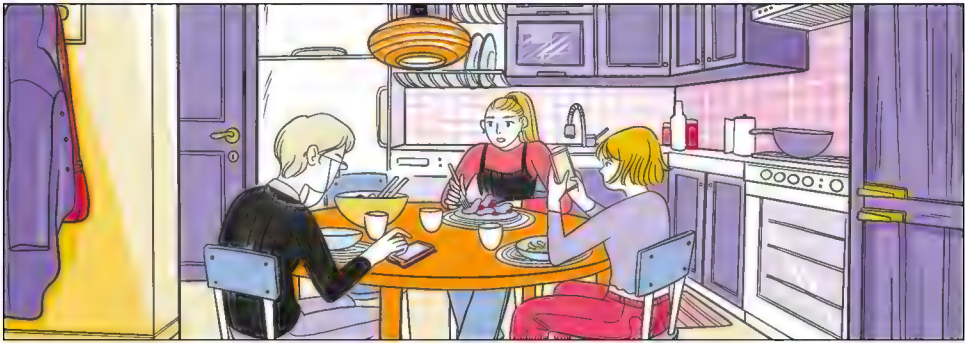




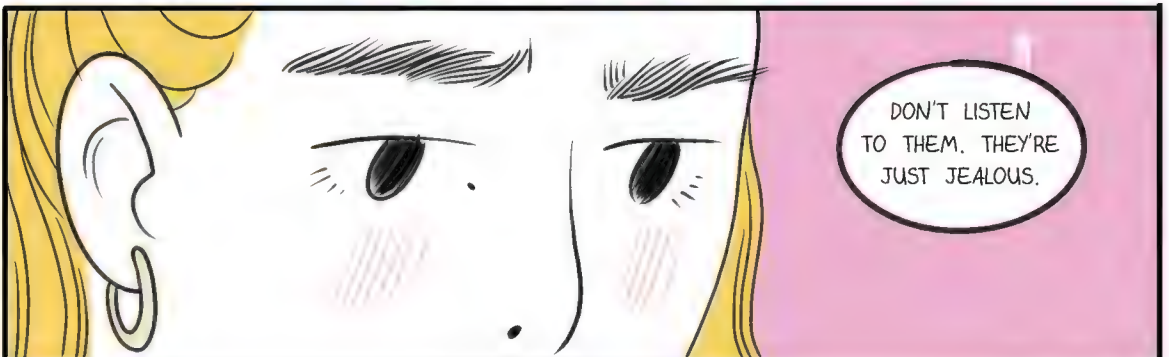
SABRINA

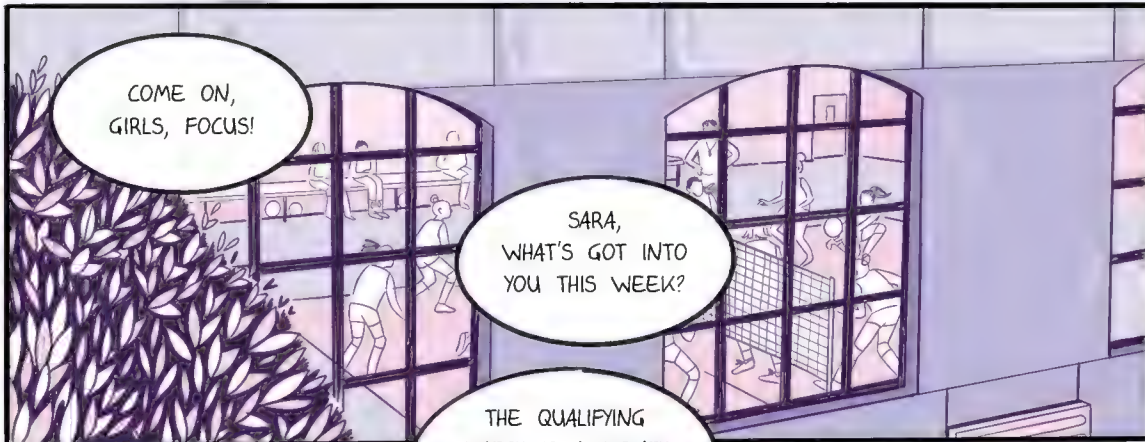
ELEONORA ANTONIONI











COME ON,
GIRLS, FOCUS!

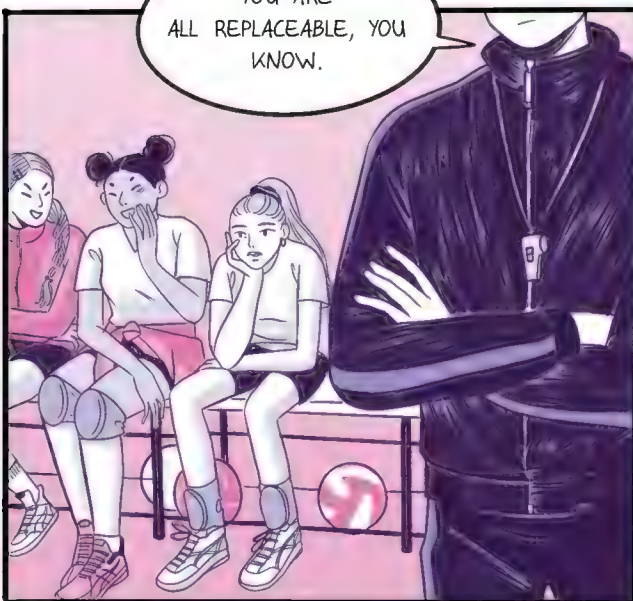
SARA,
WHAT'S GOT INTO
YOU THIS WEEK?

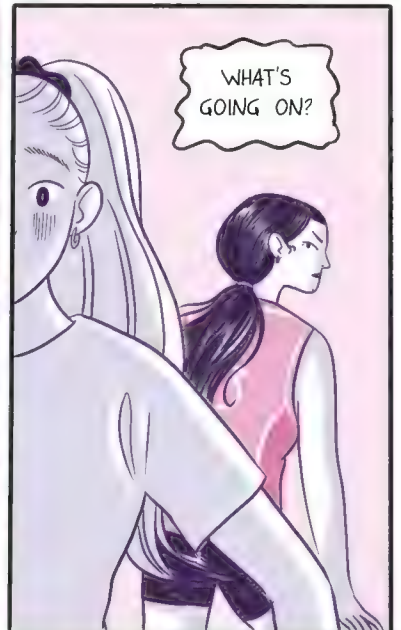
THE QUALIFYING
MATCH IS A MONTH
AWAY AND YOU'RE
PLAYING LIKE THIS?

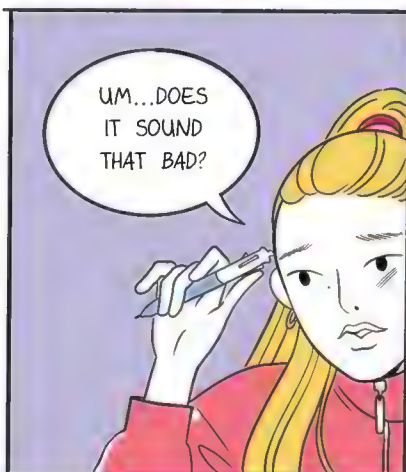


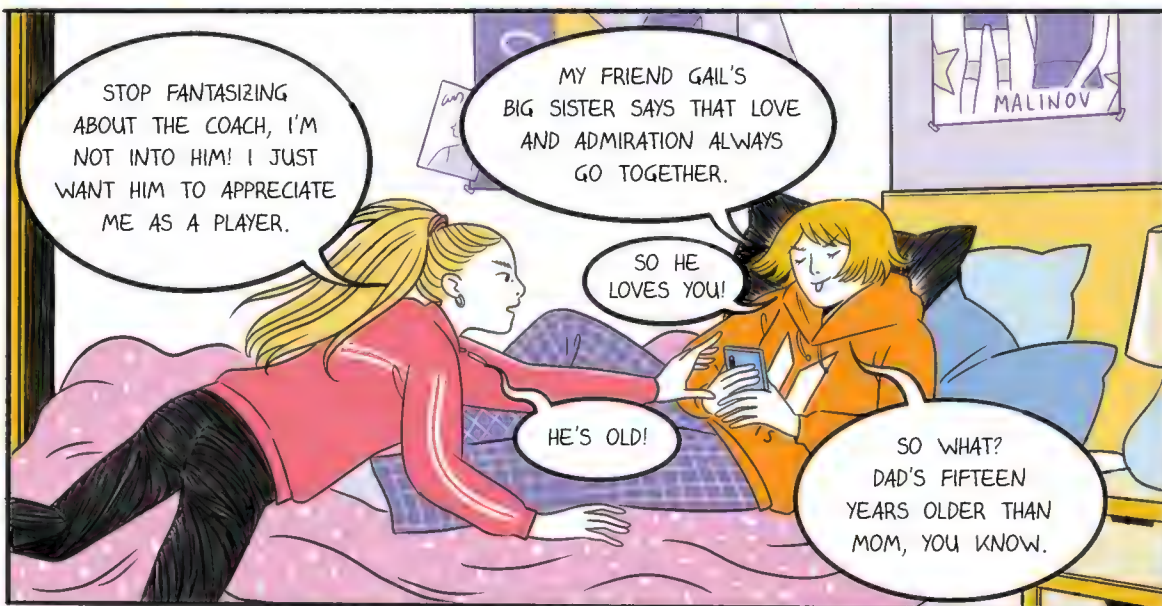
DID YOU STUFF
YOUR FACE BEFORE TRAIN-
ING AGAIN? YOU'RE STOMP-
ING AROUND LIKE AN
ELEPHANT.

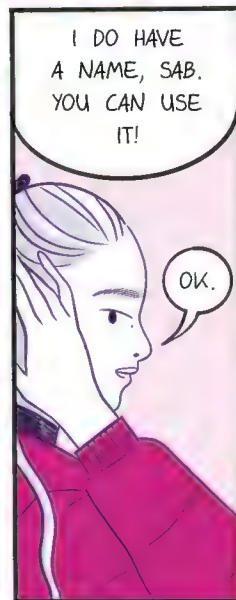
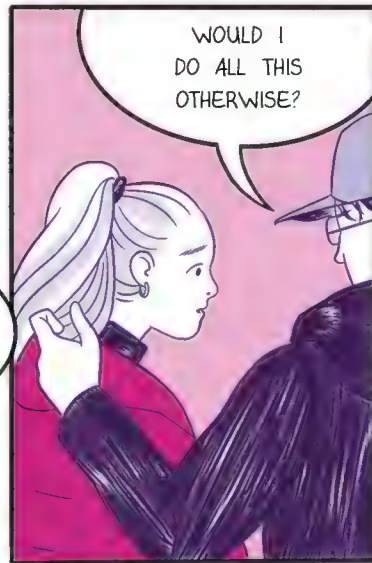
YOU ARE
ALL REPLACEABLE, YOU
KNOW.

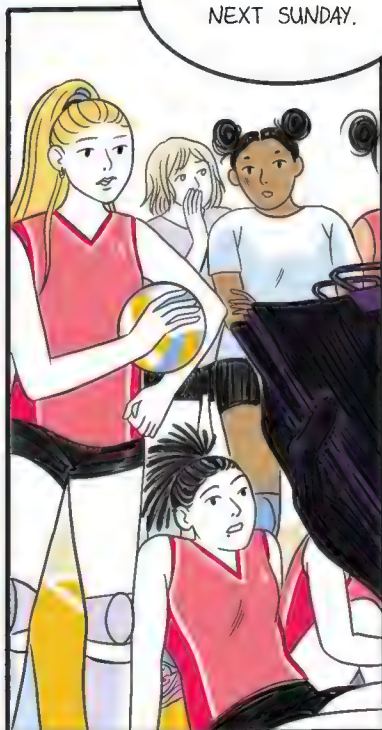












HURRAH!



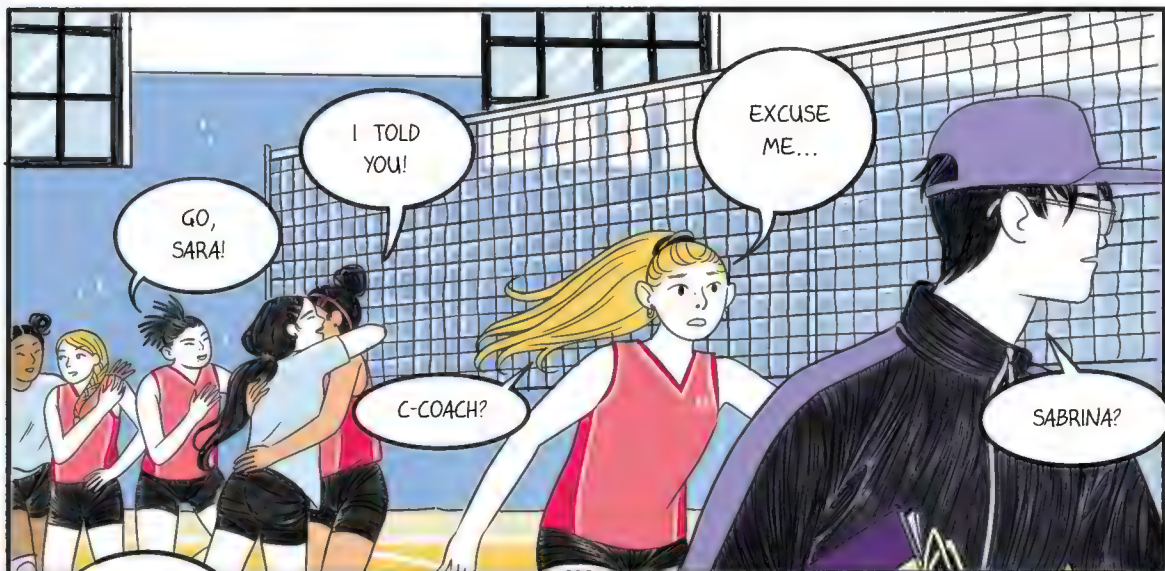
SO...THE OFFICIAL SIX ARE...

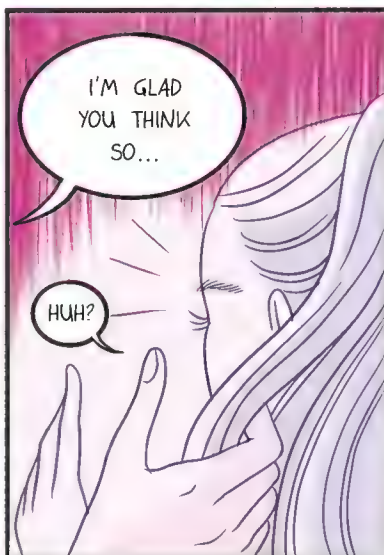
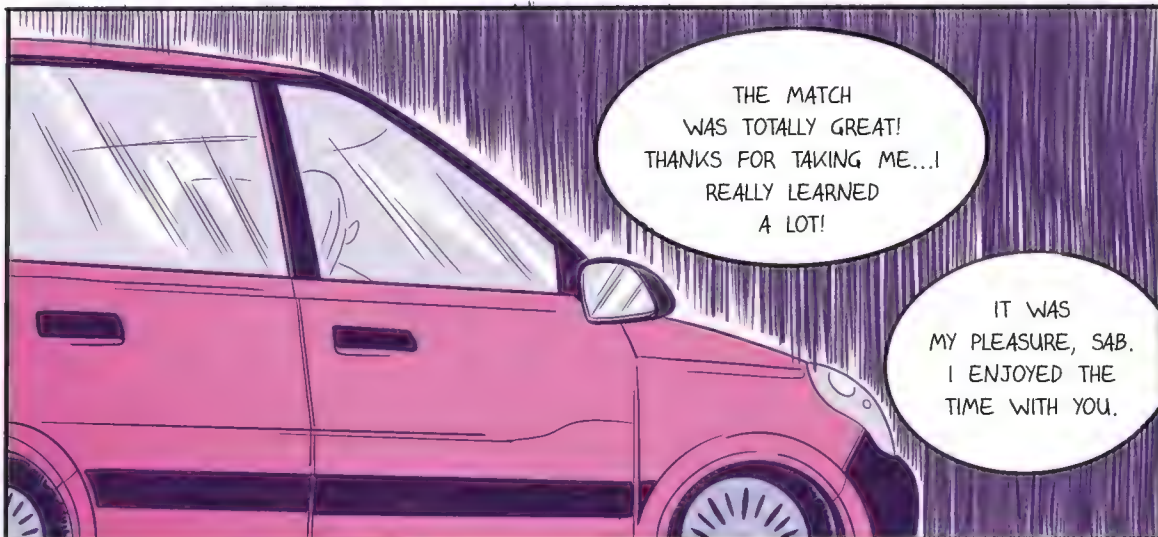
EMMA, VAL, JULIA L....



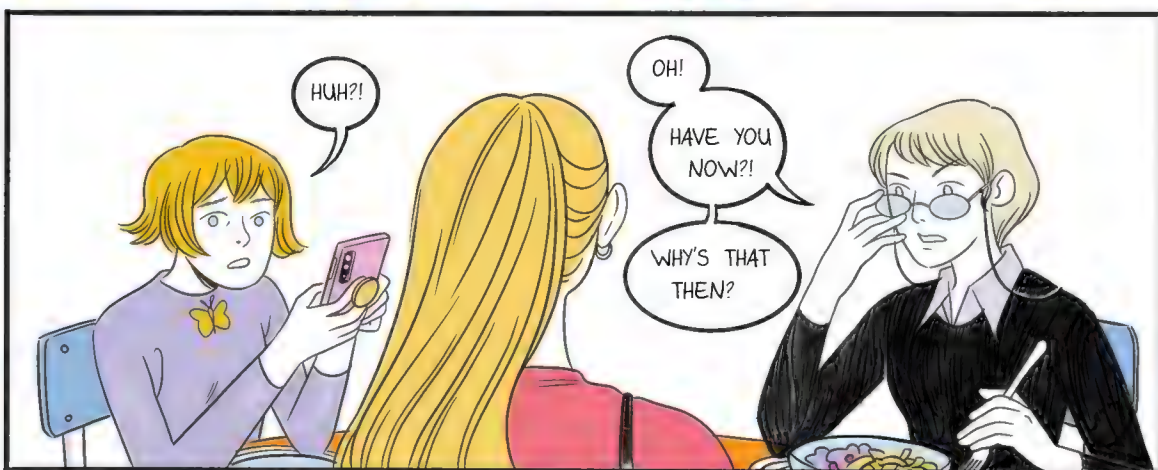
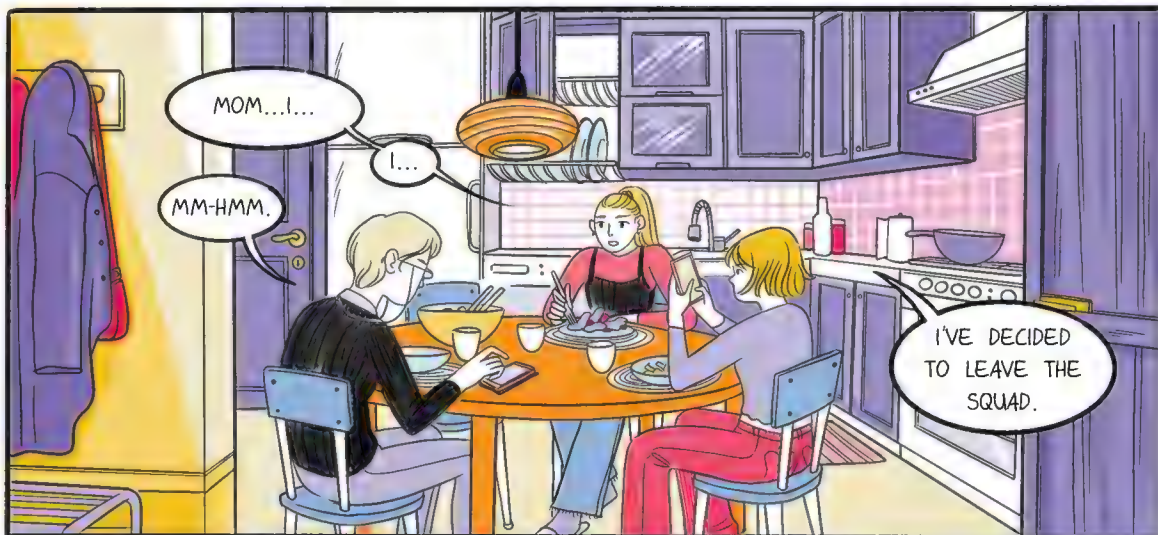
JULIA N., AND SARA. DEBORAH IS THE SPARE.

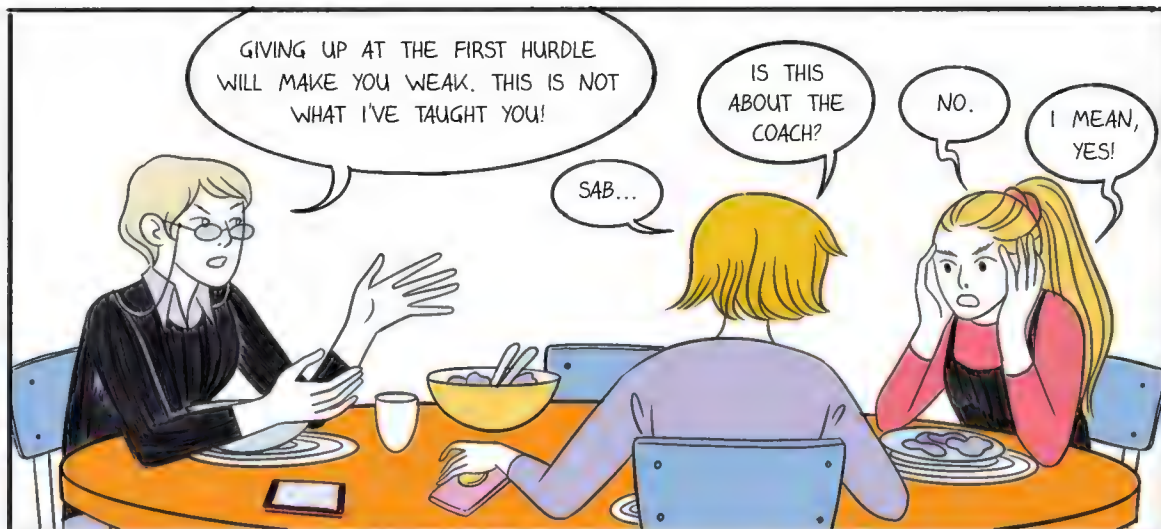
THE RESERVES ARE: LARA, FRANCESCA, GEORGIA, DIANA, AND ROS.

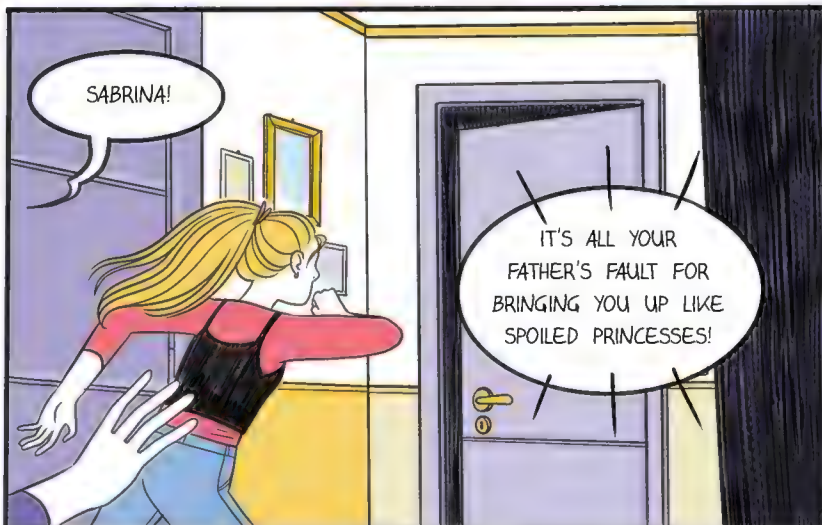


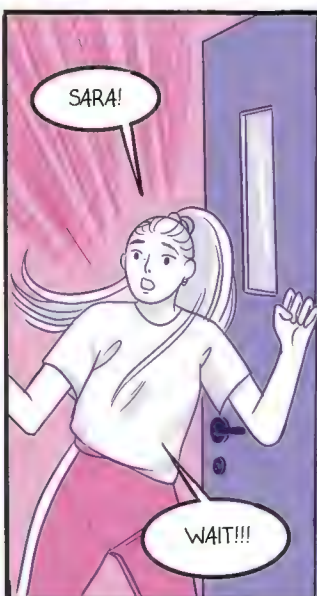
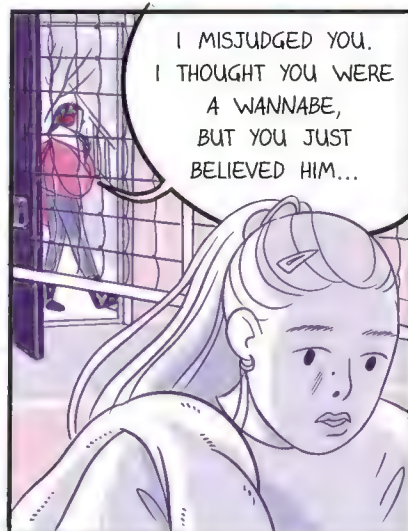
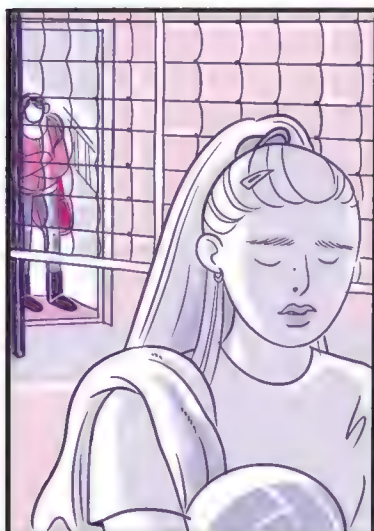
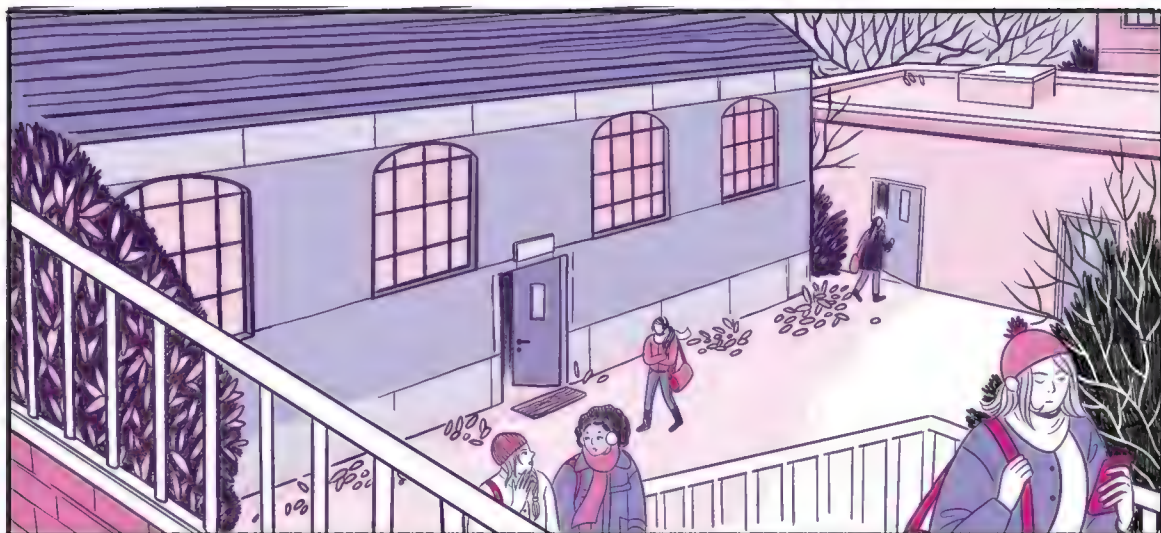


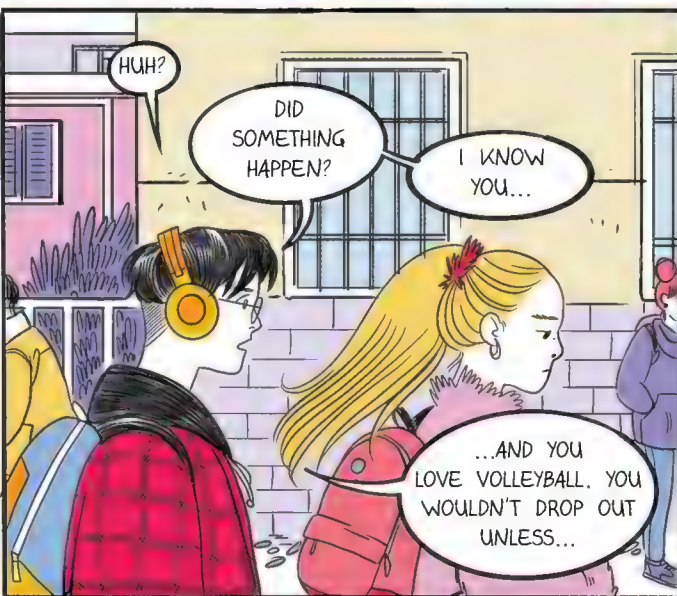
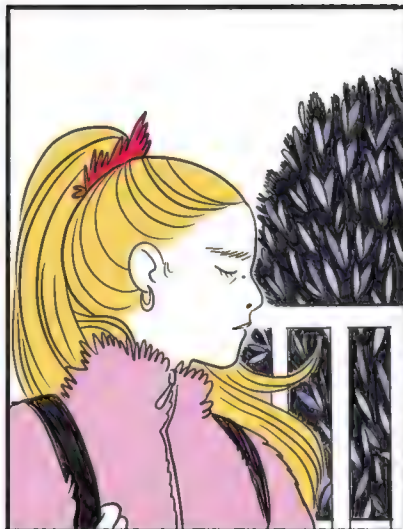
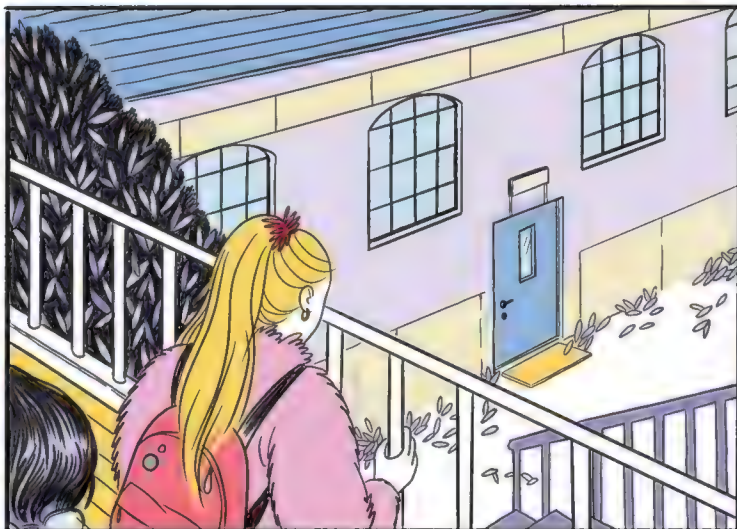


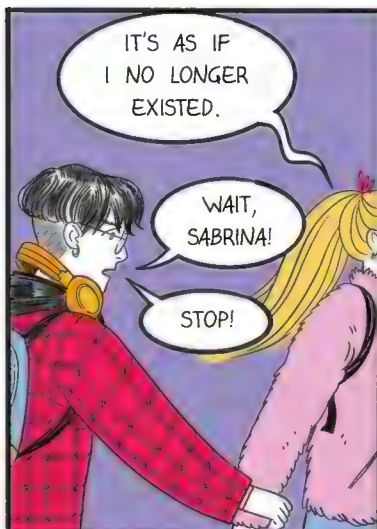
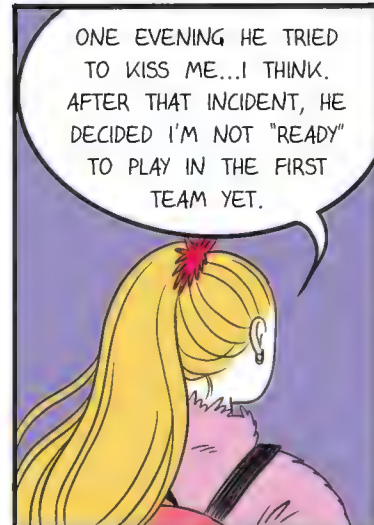
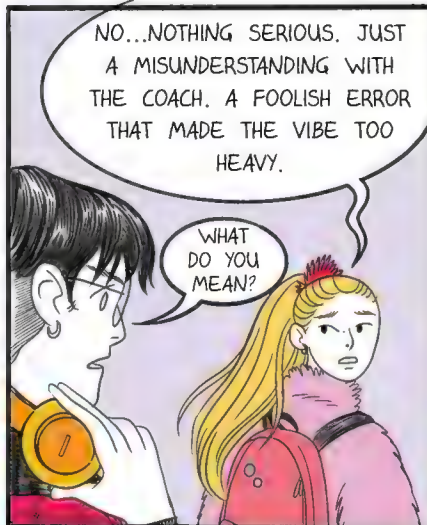






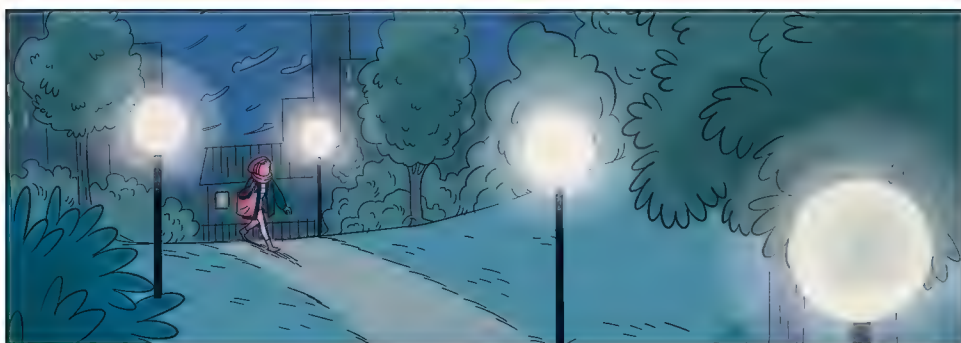


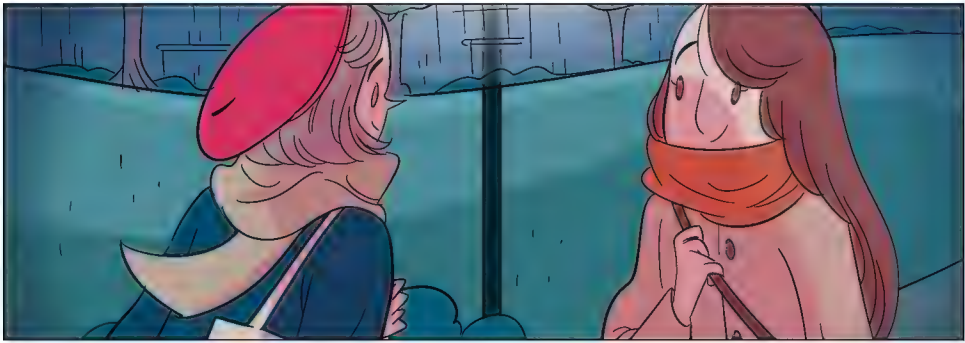


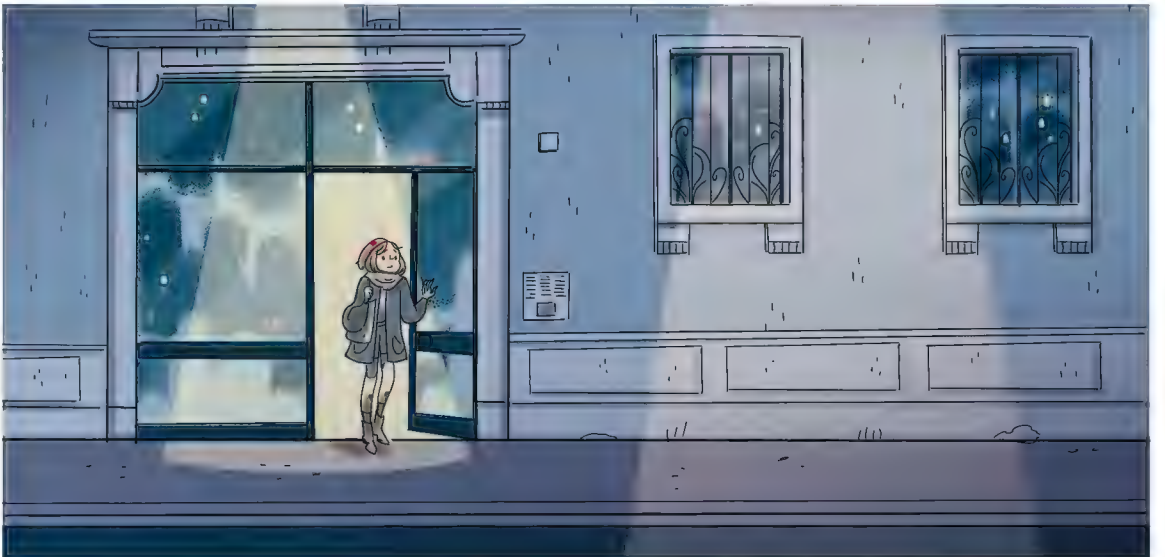
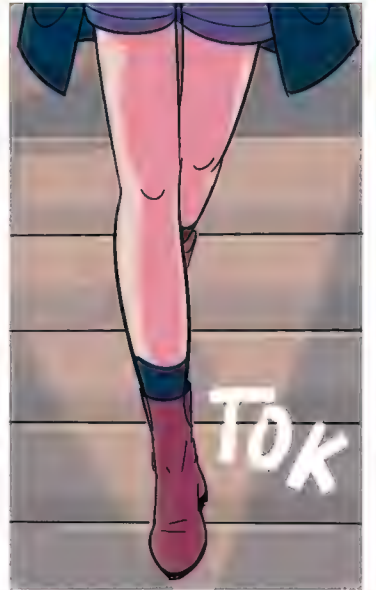
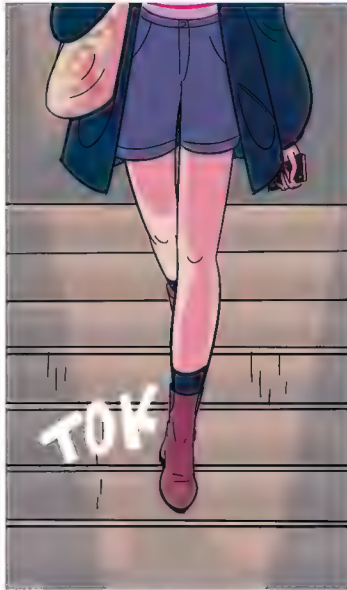
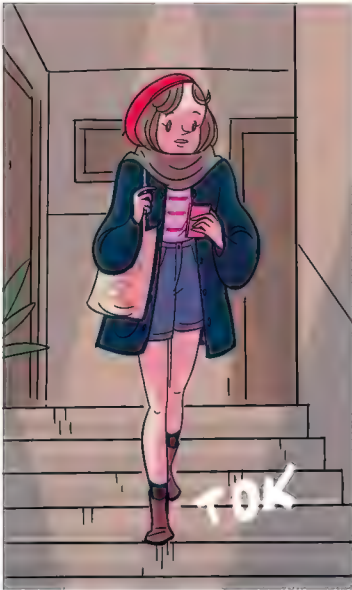


TEXT ME WHEN YOU GET HOME

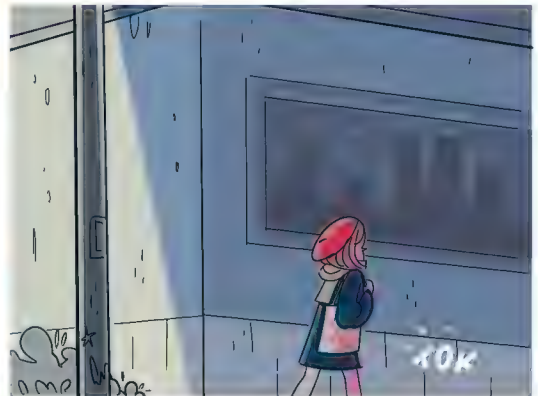
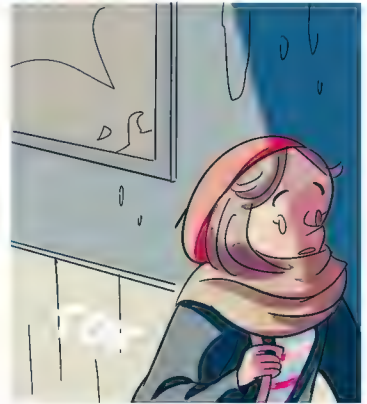
MAURIZIA RUBINO

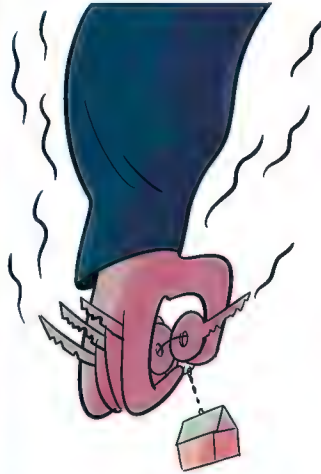


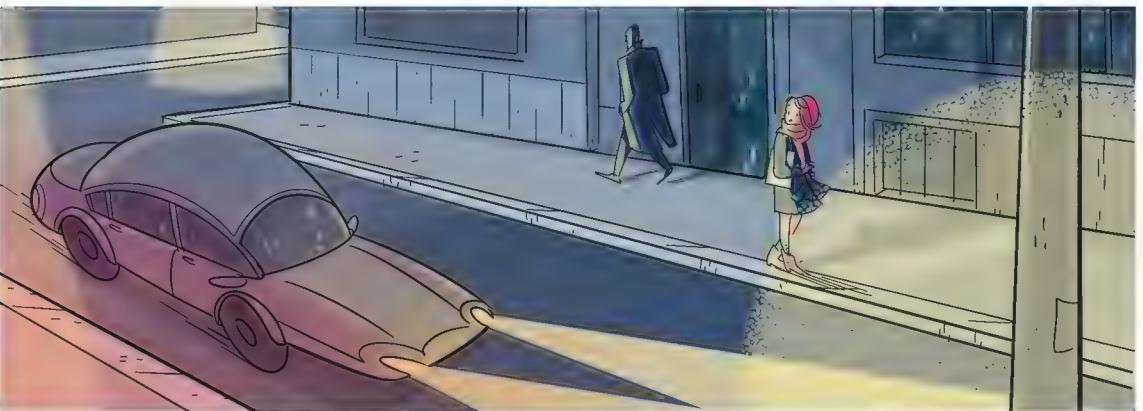


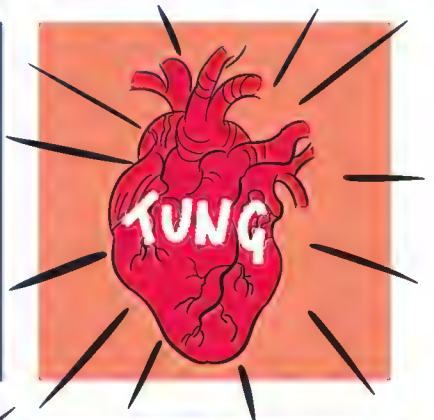
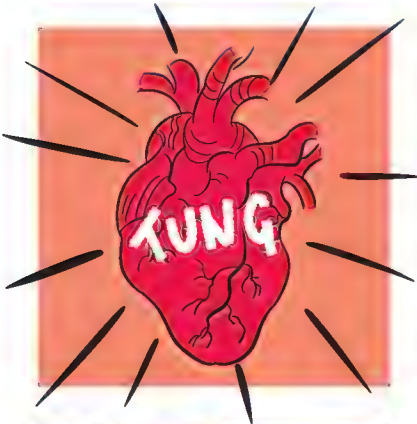










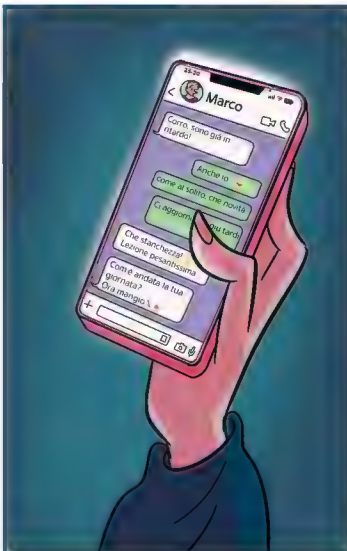
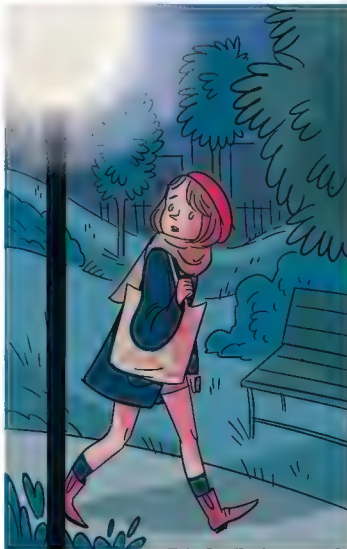
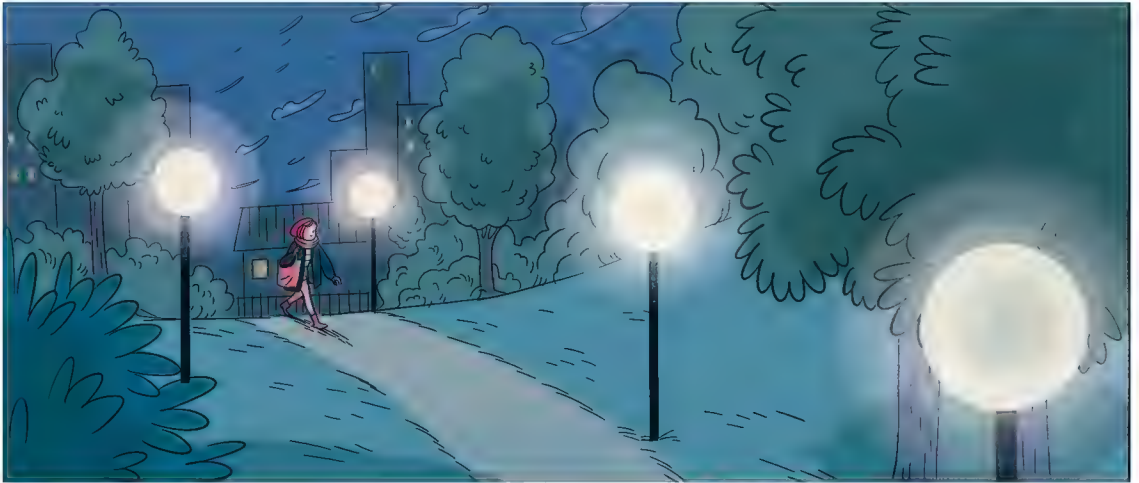














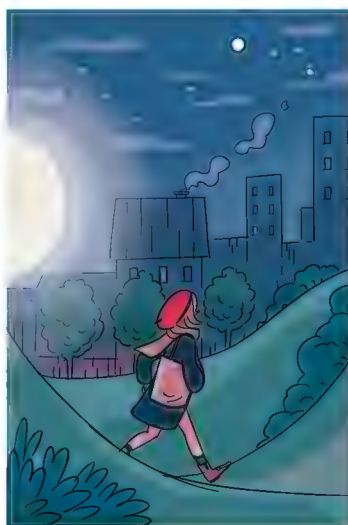
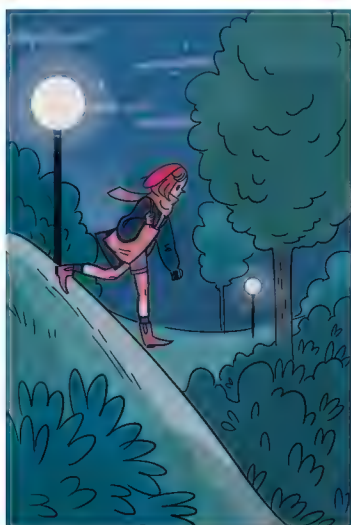
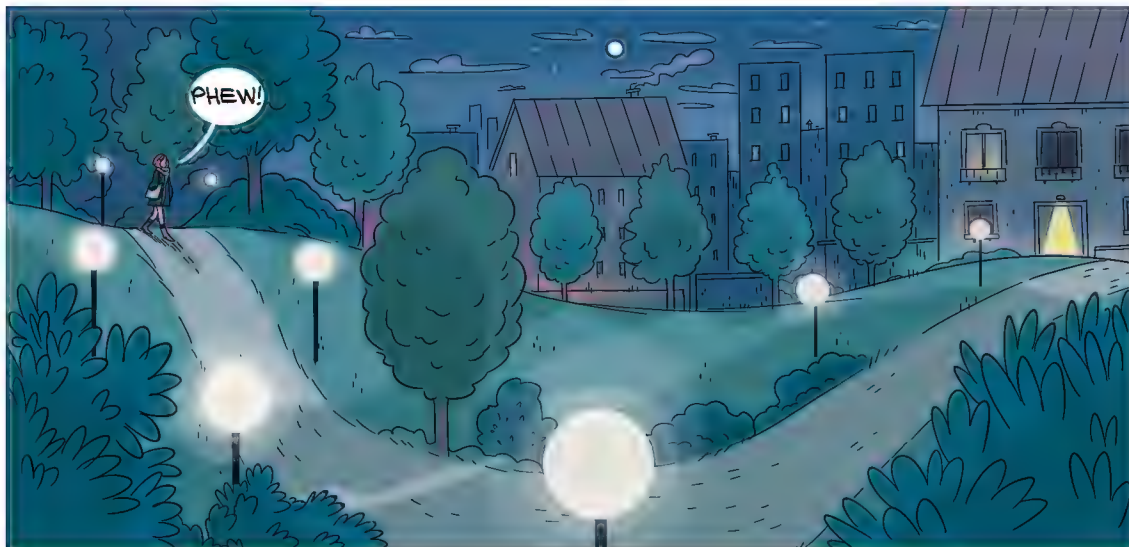
HI, MARK!
SORRY IT'S SO LATE.
I'VE JUST SEEN
YOUR MESSAGE.

I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE
QUICKER
TO CALL.

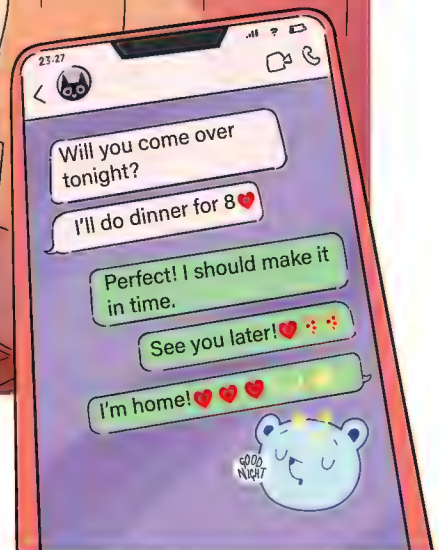
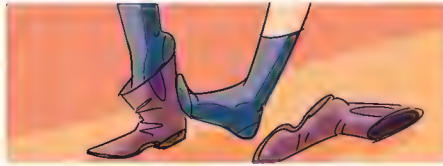
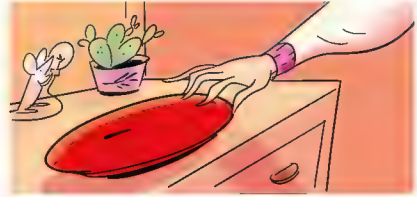
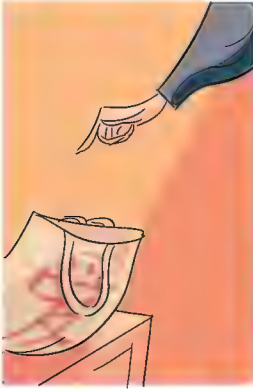
YES, I WAS
AT JULIA'S
FOR DIN-
NER.

YES,
EVERYTHING'S FINE,
THANKS. I'M JUST
WALKING HOME.
BUT...

...OH, RIGHT.
NOT TO WORRY, I'LL
CALL TOMORROW.





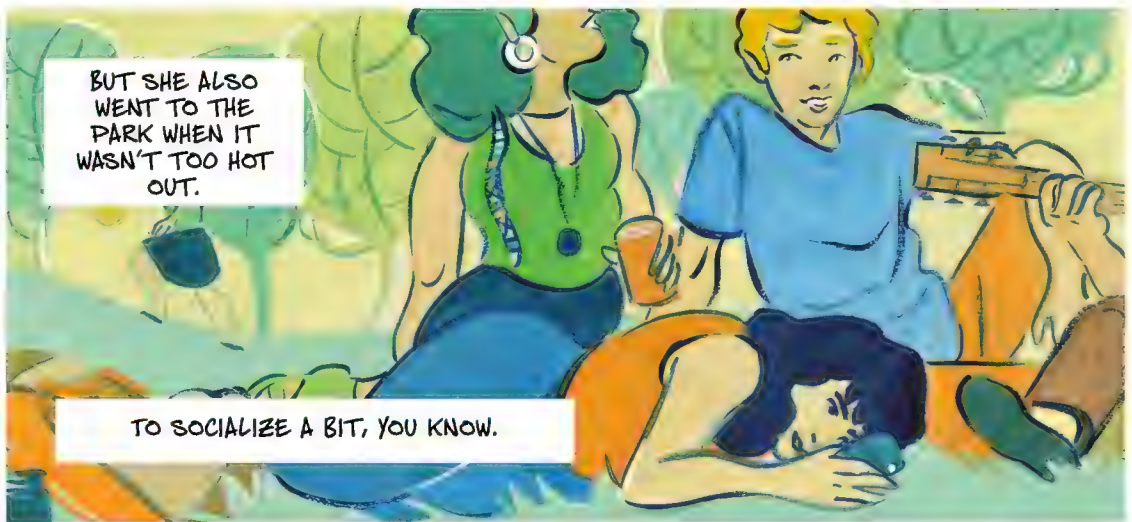


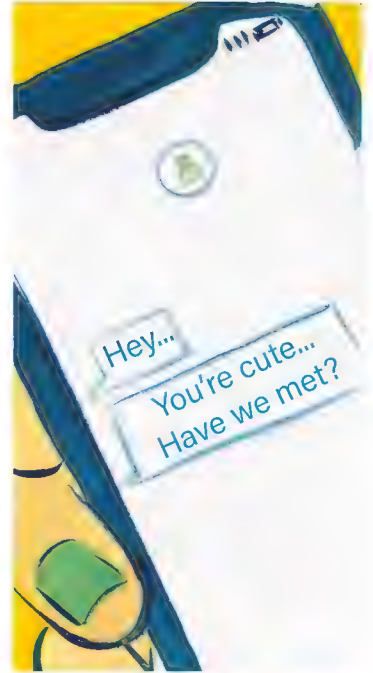
TWO IN ONE

FRANCESCA TORRE, LA TRAM



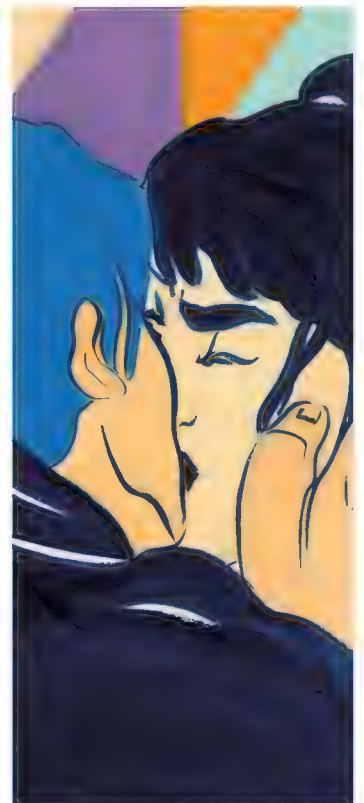












I SAW HOW YOU WERE
LOOKING AT ME...

HOW CAN I RESIST
WHEN YOU DO THAT?

YOUR FAULT FOR
BEING SO CUTE.

WANT ME?

...

...BUT...

BUT?

I DIDN'T THINK
THE FIRST TIME
WOULD BE LIKE THIS.

ROMANTIC LOVE IS
A LITTLE GIRL'S FANTASY.

I AM A
LITTLE GIRL!

















ROSE DID GO HOME.
SHE PRETENDED
SHE HAD A FEVER.
SHE DIDN'T GO OUT
FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

SHE STARTED LISTENING
TO HER MUSIC AGAIN AND
MEETING UP WITH HER
BEST FRIENDS, ALEX
AND MARY.

EATING.
SMILING.

BREATHING.

MAX CALLED HER FOR
WEEKS AND CAME
LOOKING FOR HER FOR
MONTHS.

BUT ROSE HAD MADE
UP HER MIND. SHE
WASN'T GOING BACK.

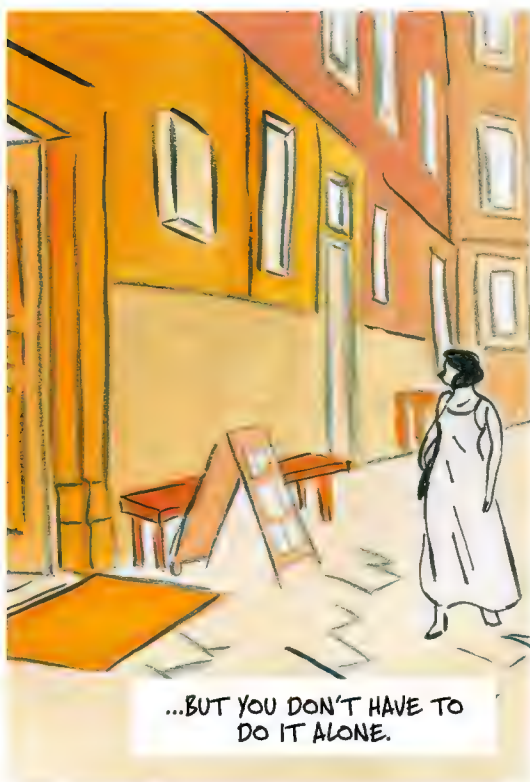
NOT EVEN IF IT
MEANT LOSING
PART OF HER-
SELF.







NO ONE CAN DO IT FOR YOU...



...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO
DO IT ALONE.



THERE WAS SOMETHING
SHE HAD MISSED ALL
THOSE YEARS.

SOMEONE.



THERE'S
NO PERFECT
TIME TO
HEAL.



BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES,
YOU'LL KNOW.



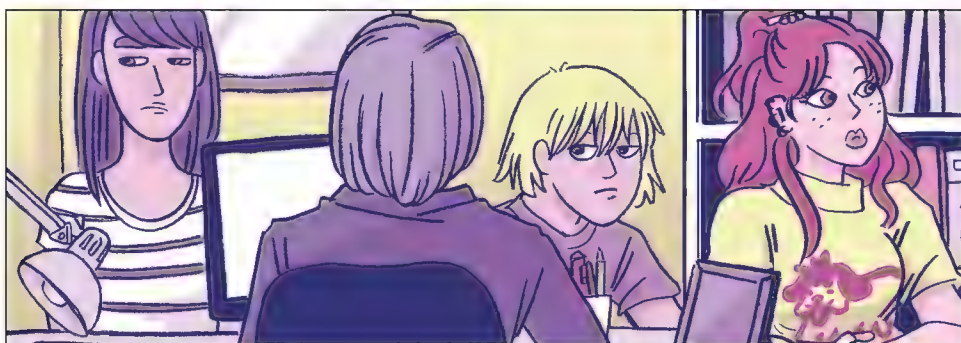
AND YOU'LL
REMEMBER IT.

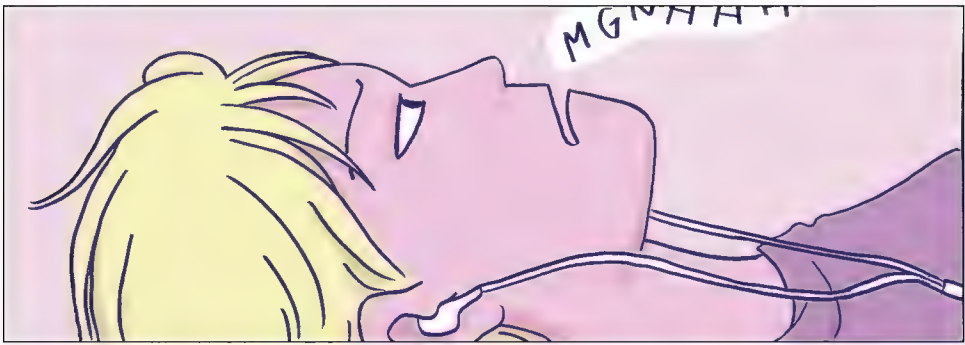
IT'S THE MOMENT WHEN YOU
STOP BEING AFRAID.



THE RIGHT THING

LUCIA BIAGI







ONLY A MONTH TILL
SUMMER BREAK!

HOORAY, WE'RE
NEARLY THERE!

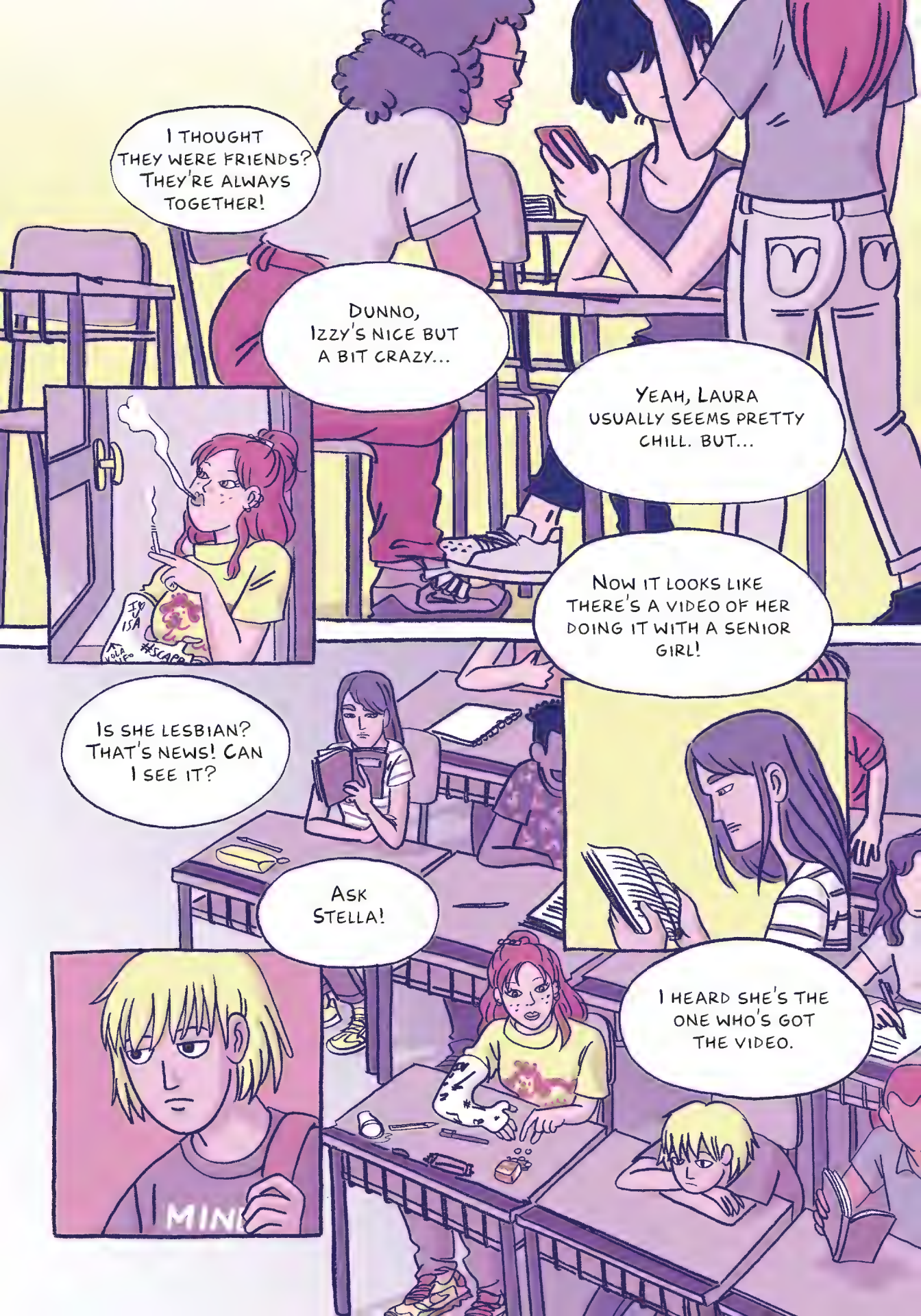
I'VE STILL GOT TO
DO THAT SCIENCE
TEST...

DID YOU HEAR
WHAT HAPPENED
YESTERDAY?

LAURA AND ISABEL
HAD A FIGHT!
STELLA WAS
THERE TOO!

IZZY BROKE
HER ARM.

WHO? LAURA
FROM 11D?



I THOUGHT
THEY WERE FRIENDS?
THEY'RE ALWAYS
TOGETHER!

DUNNO,
IZZY'S NICE BUT
A BIT CRAZY...

YEAH, LAURA
USUALLY SEEMS PRETTY
CHILL. BUT...

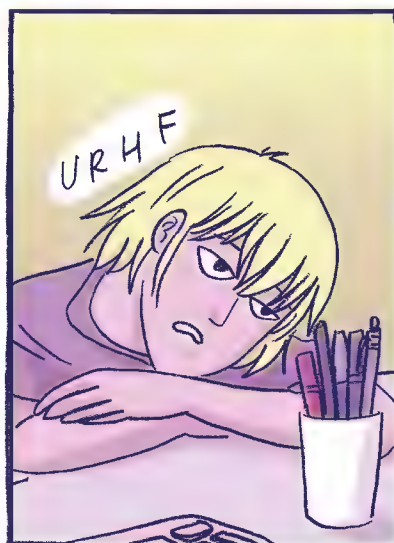
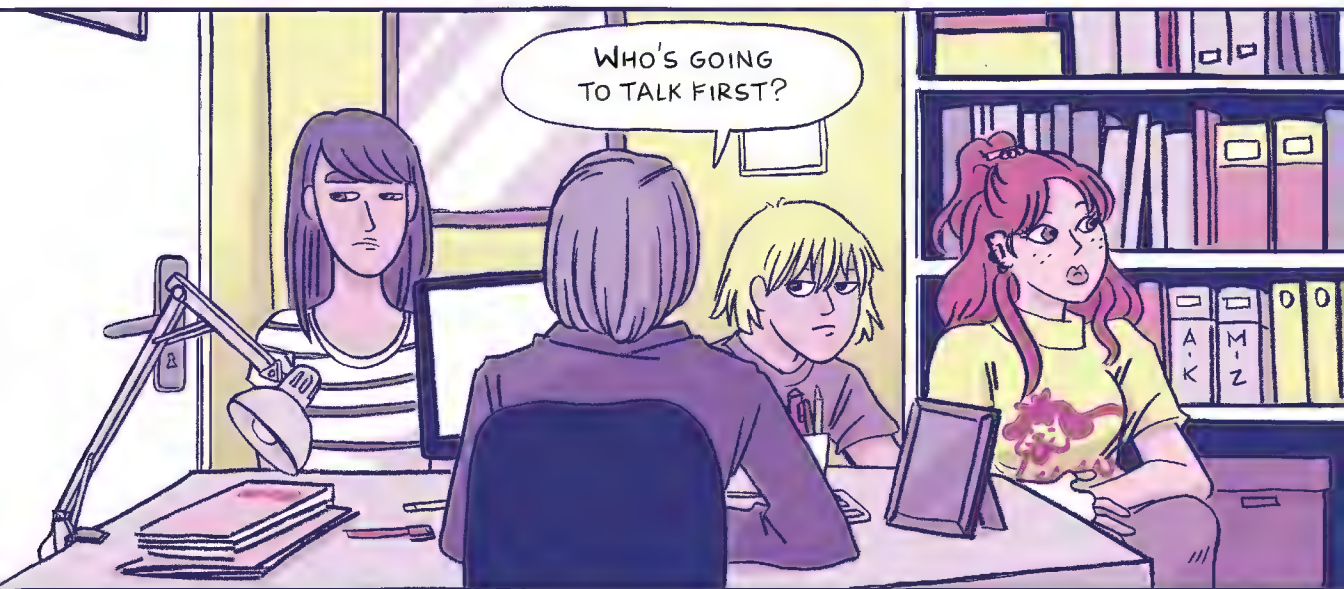
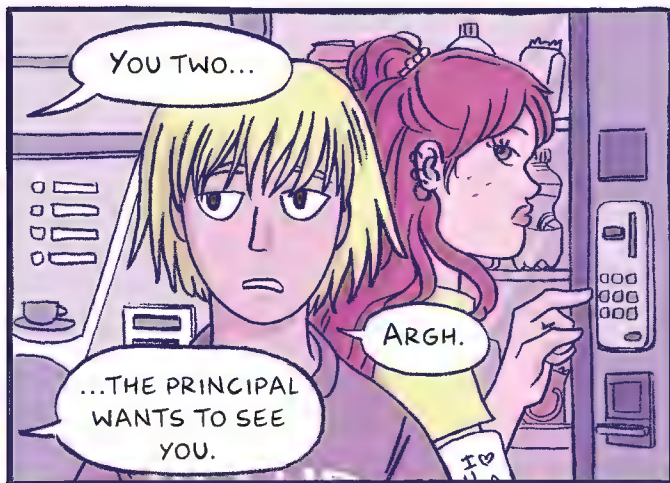
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE
THERE'S A VIDEO OF HER
DOING IT WITH A SENIOR
GIRL!

IS SHE LESBIAN?
THAT'S NEWS! CAN
I SEE IT?

ASK
STELLA!

I HEARD SHE'S THE
ONE WHO'S GOT
THE VIDEO.

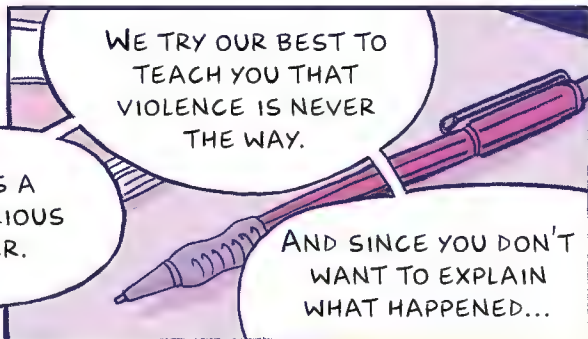
MINI





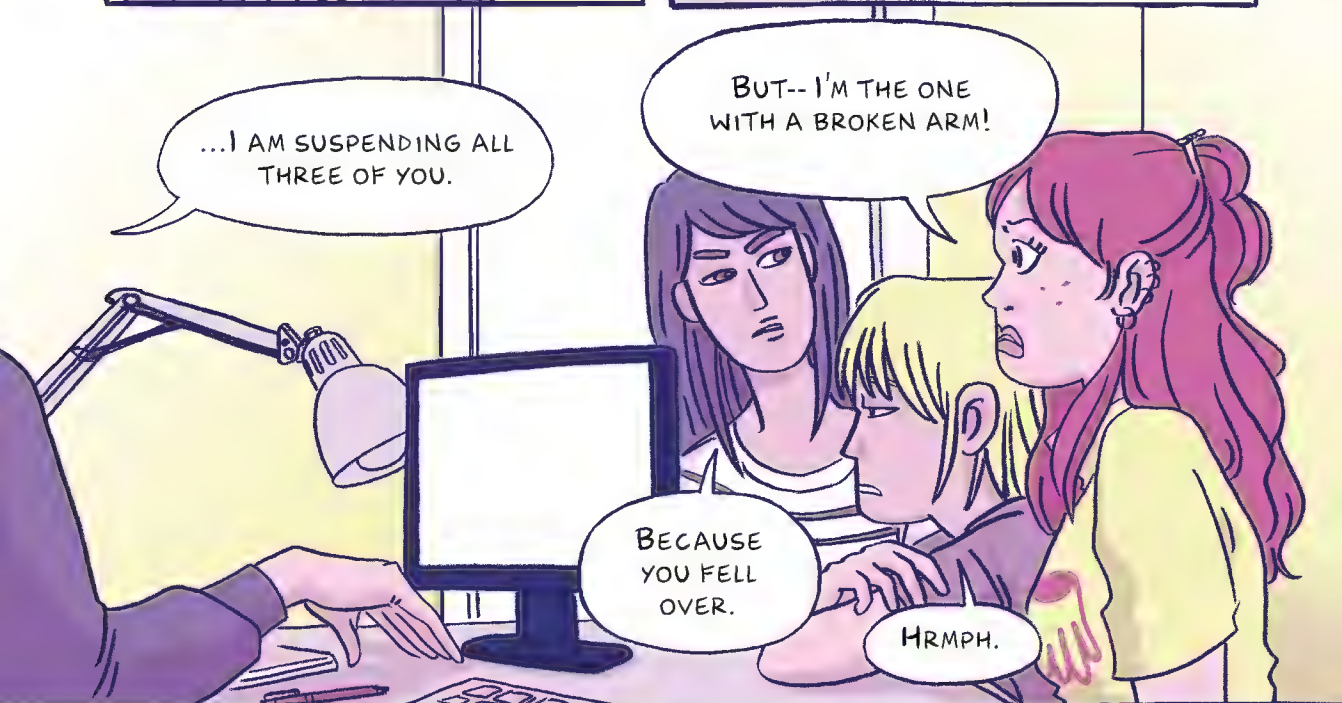
I WILL THEN.

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.



WE TRY OUR BEST TO TEACH YOU THAT VIOLENCE IS NEVER THE WAY.

AND SINCE YOU DON'T WANT TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED...

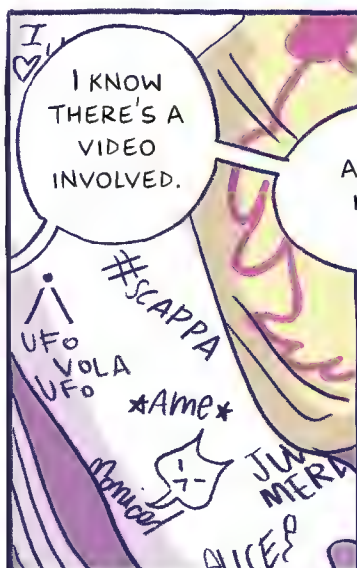


...I AM SUSPENDING ALL THREE OF YOU.

BUT-- I'M THE ONE WITH A BROKEN ARM!

BECAUSE YOU FELL OVER.

HRMPH.



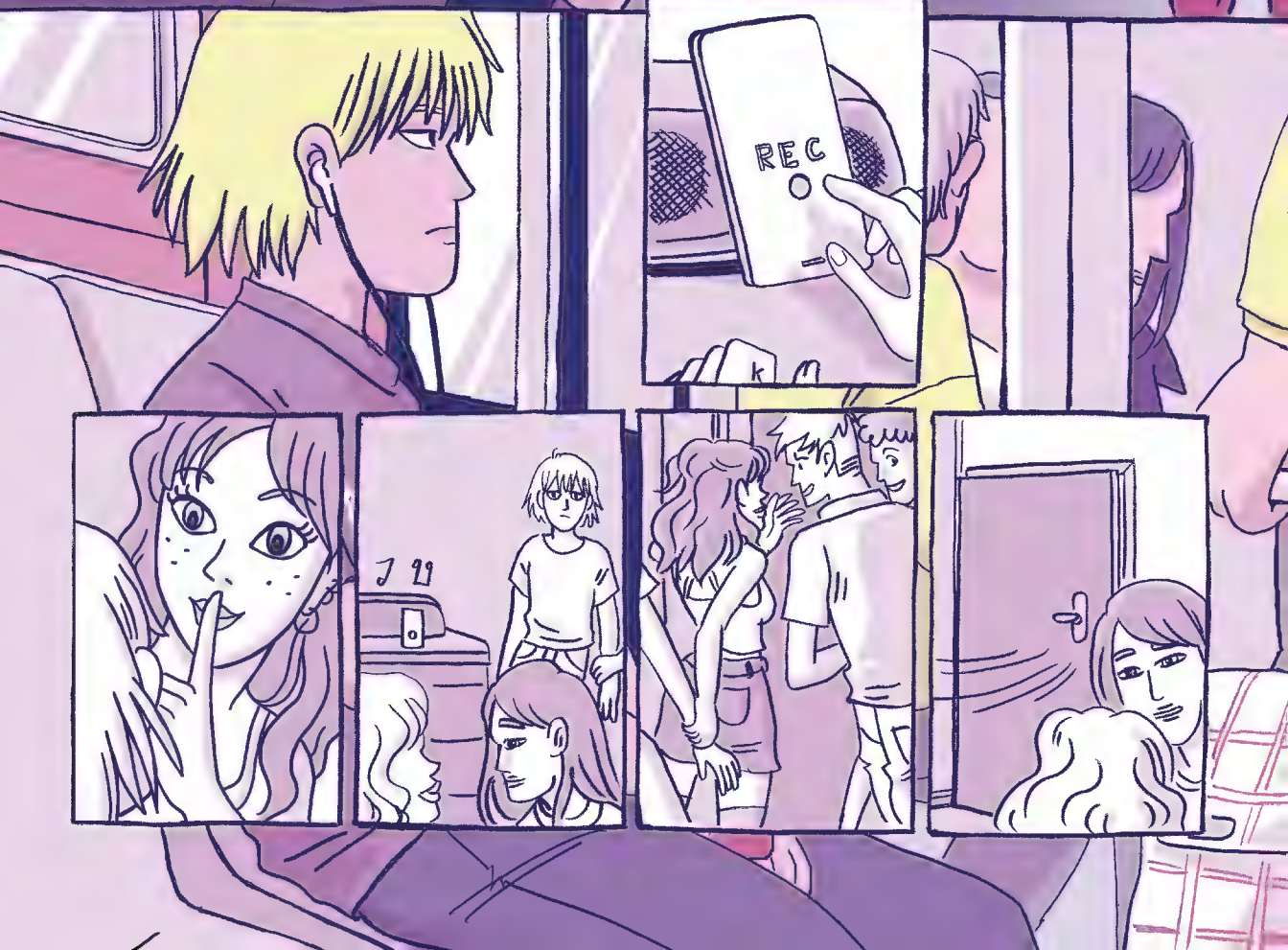
I KNOW THERE'S A VIDEO INVOLVED.

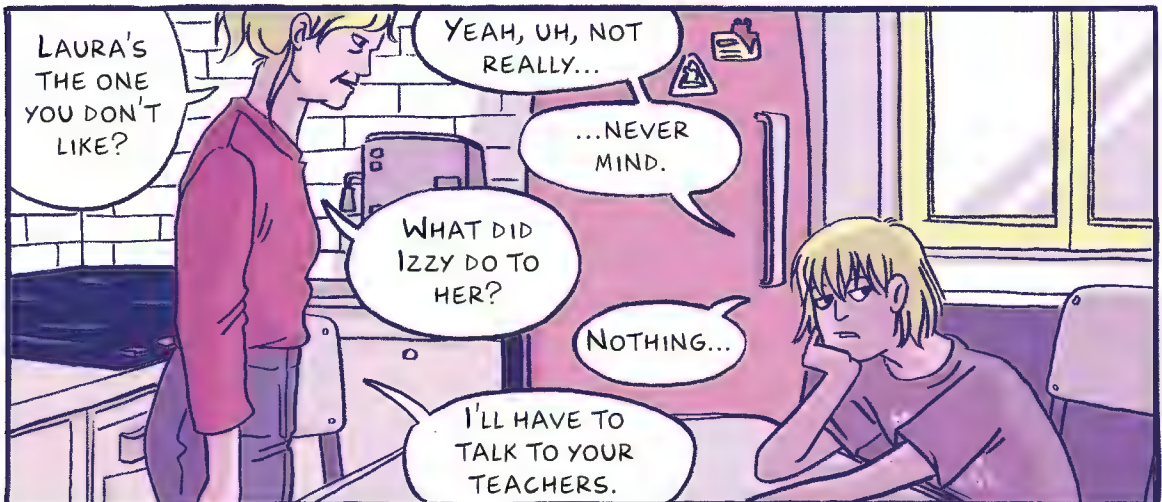
I'M NOT AUTHORIZED TO INSPECT YOUR PHONES...

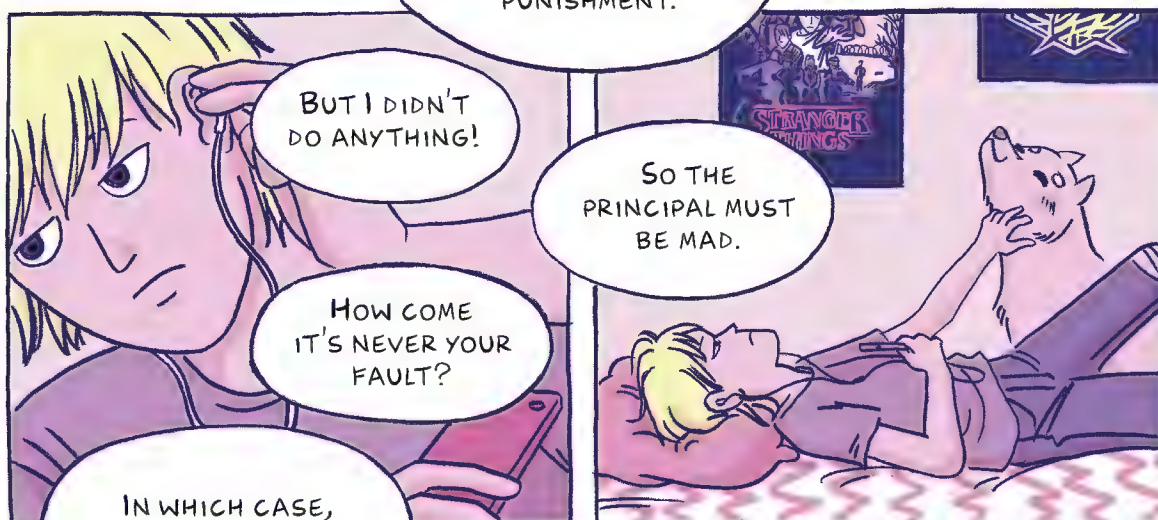
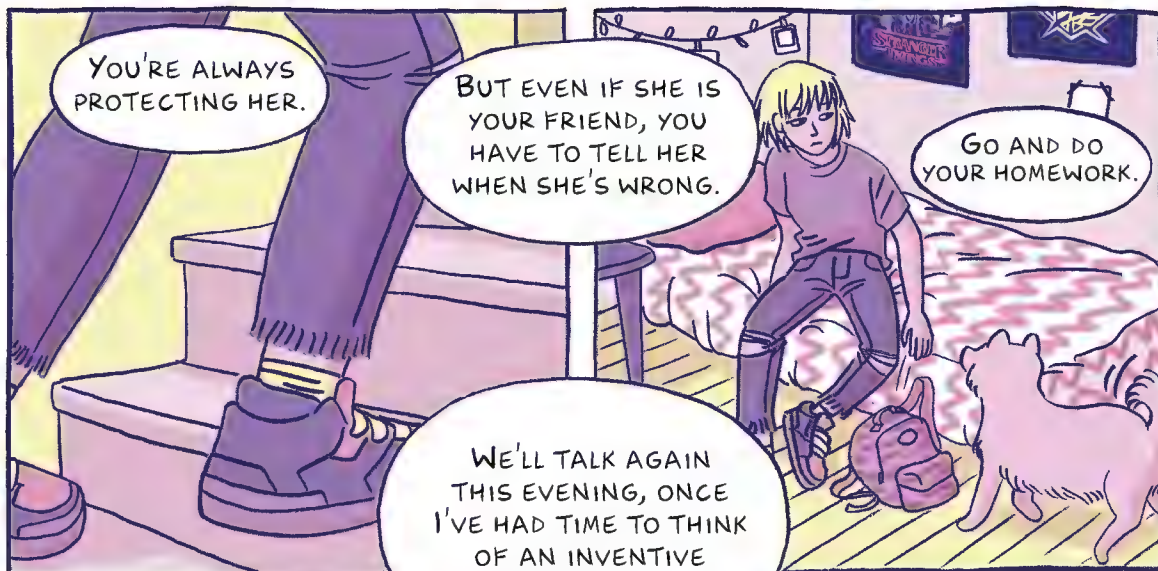
...BUT YOU KNOW WELL ENOUGH THAT FILMING MINORS IS AN OFFENSE.

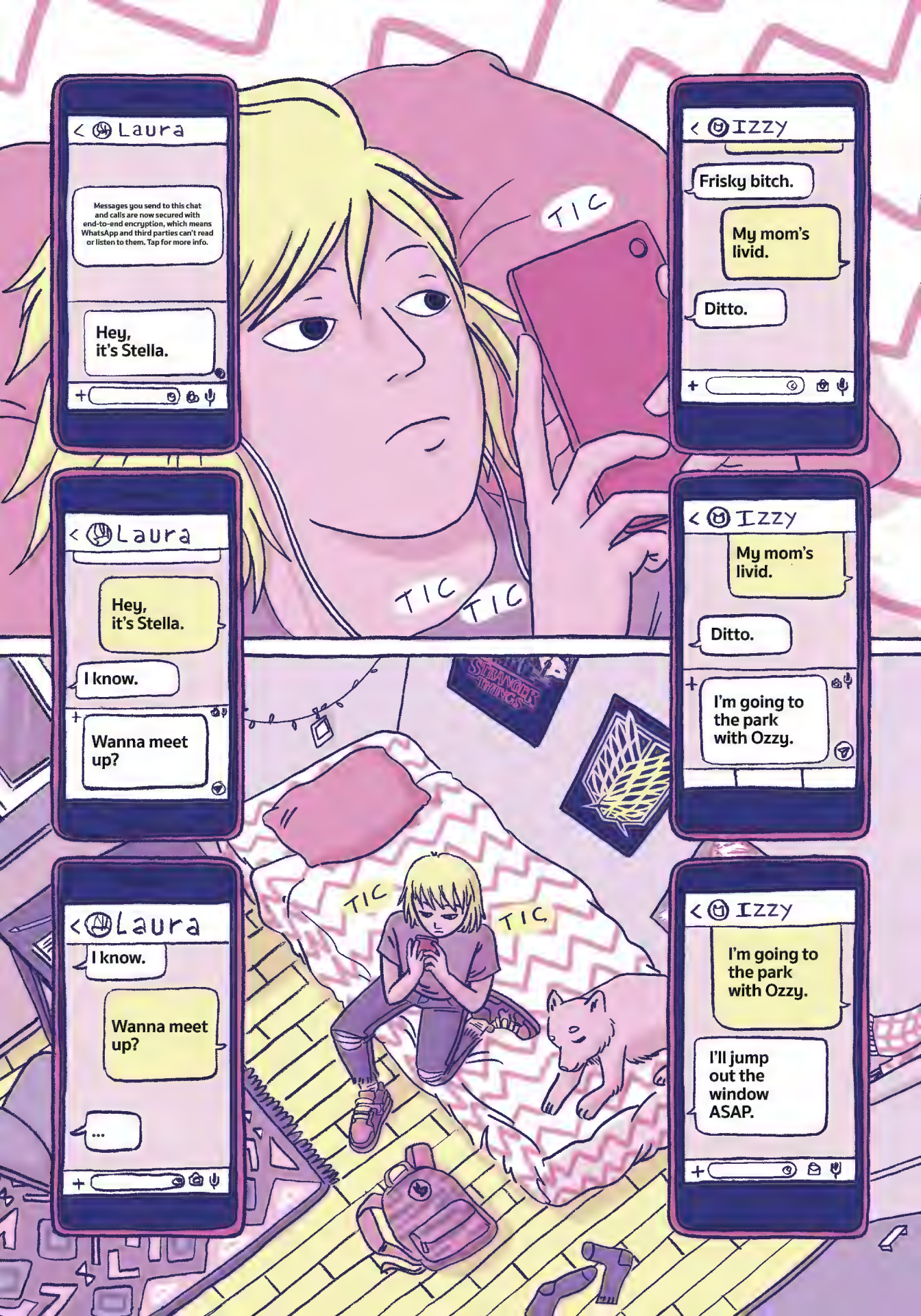
IF YOU WON'T EXPLAIN YOURSELVES, YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE.











< Laura

Messages you send to this chat and calls are now secured with end-to-end encryption, which means WhatsApp and third parties can't read or listen to them. Tap for more info.

Hey, it's Stella.

< Izzy

Frisky bitch.

My mom's livid.

Ditto.

< Laura

Hey, it's Stella.

I know.

Wanna meet up?

< Izzy

My mom's livid.

Ditto.

I'm going to the park with Ozzy.

< Laura

I know.

Wanna meet up?

...

< Izzy

I'm going to the park with Ozzy.

I'll jump out the window ASAP.

HOW AM
I SUPPOSED TO
FIX THIS?

WITH
A TIME
MACHINE?

MAYBE I COULD
GO BACK TO
WHEN LAURA
WASN'T HERE.

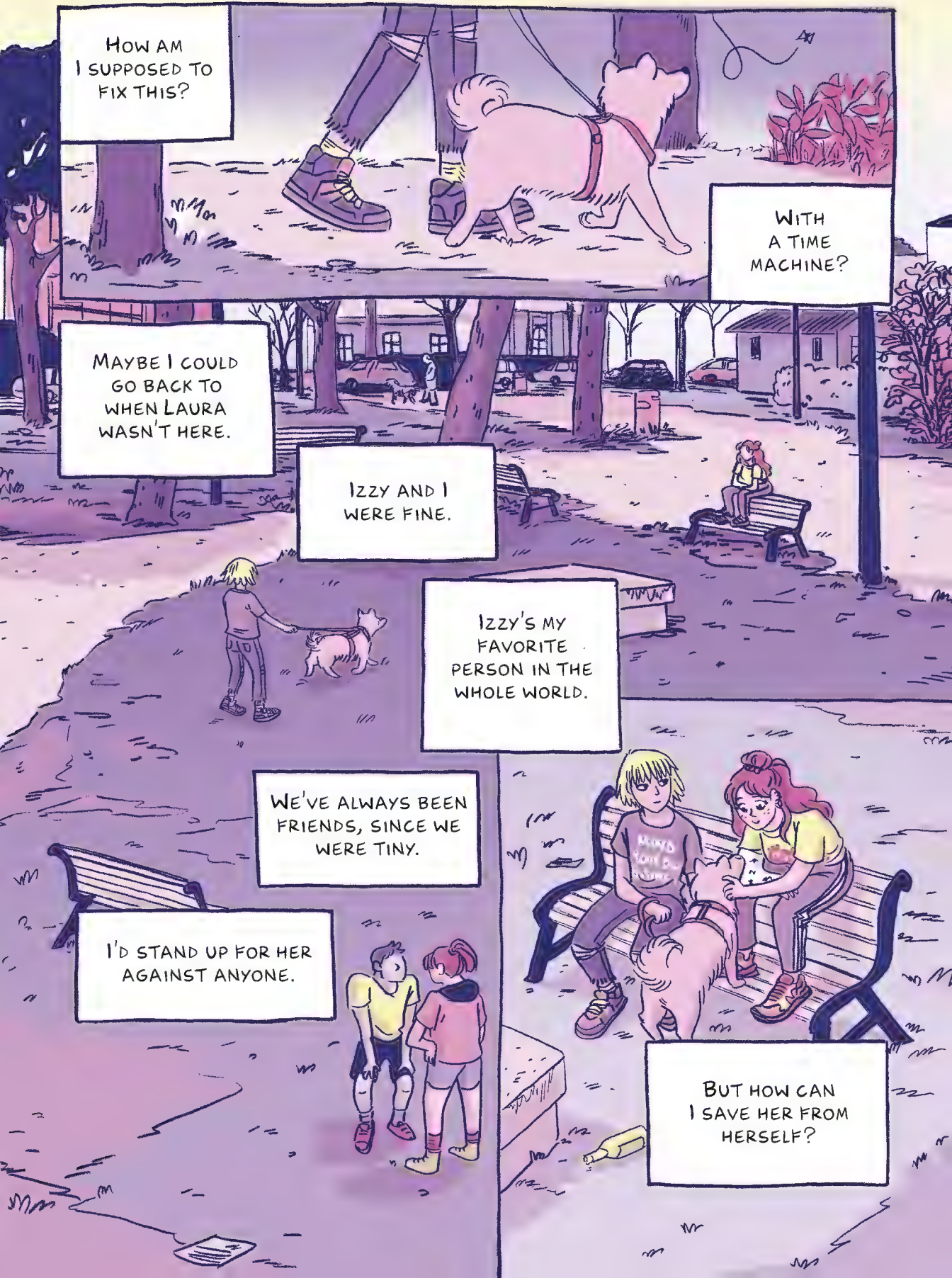
IZZY AND I
WERE FINE.

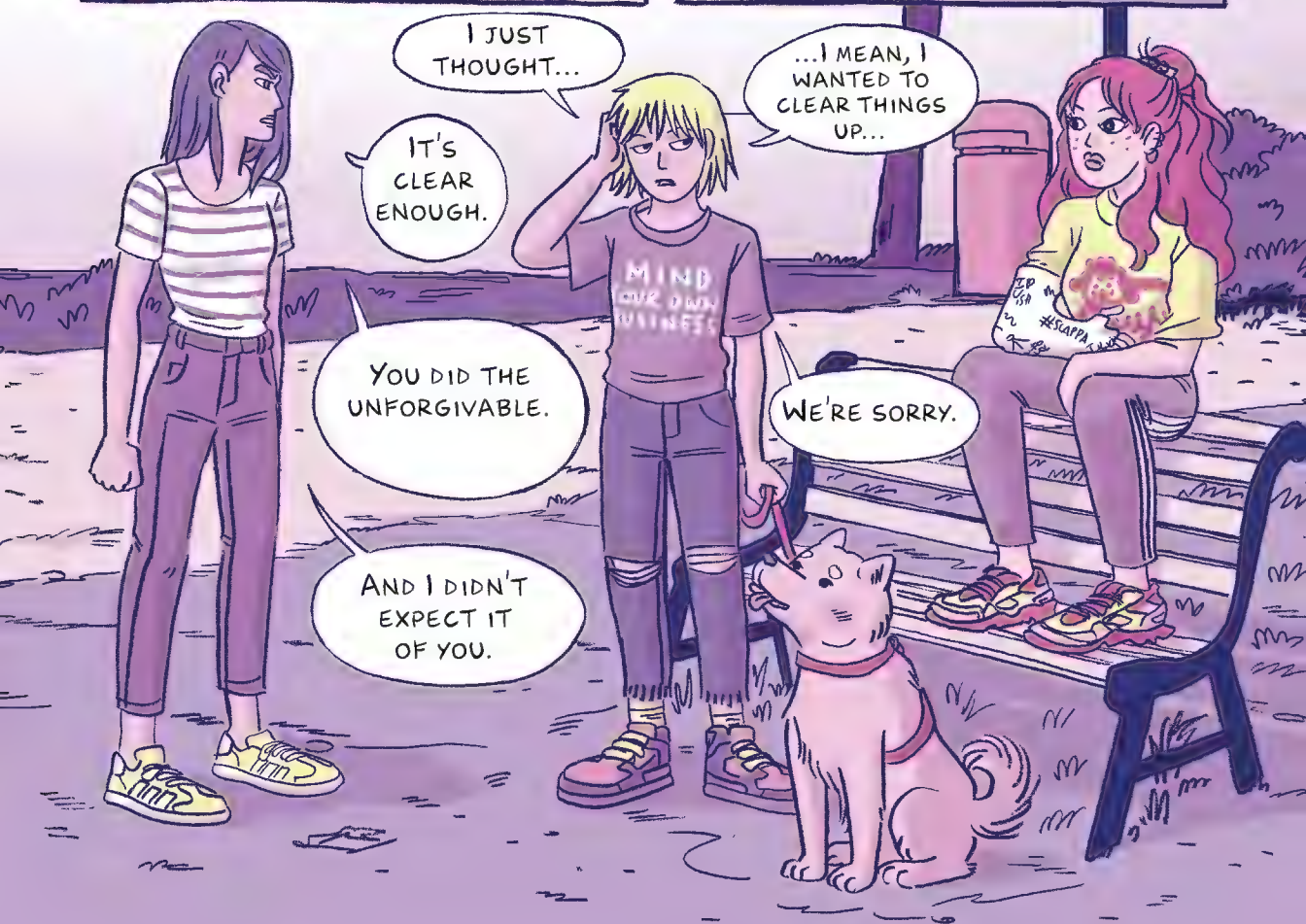
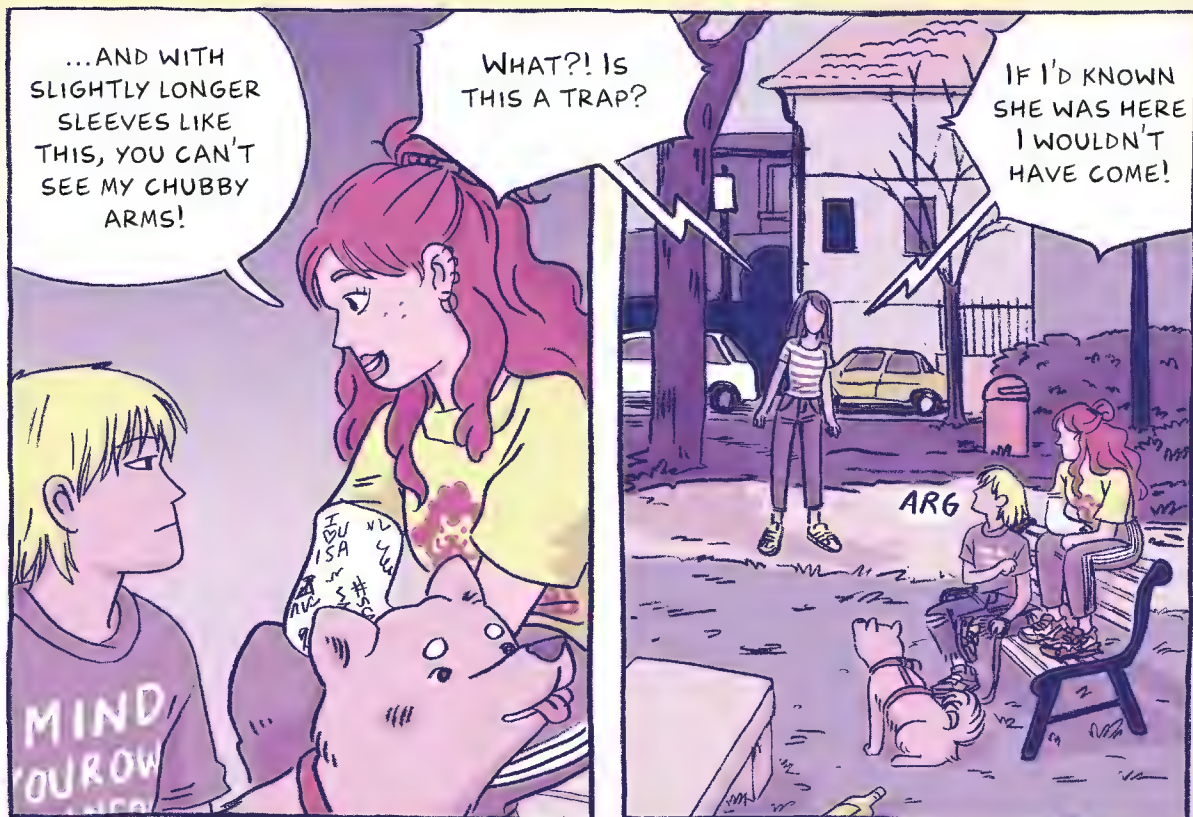
IZZY'S MY
FAVORITE
PERSON IN THE
WHOLE WORLD.

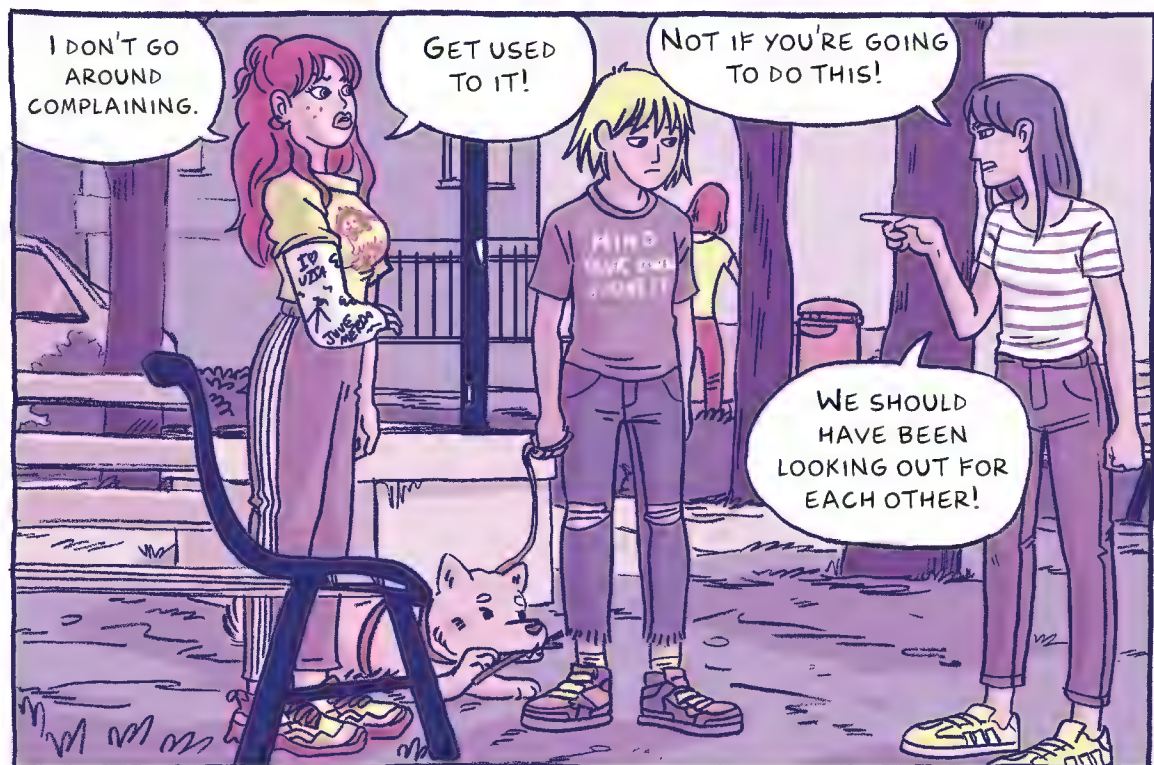
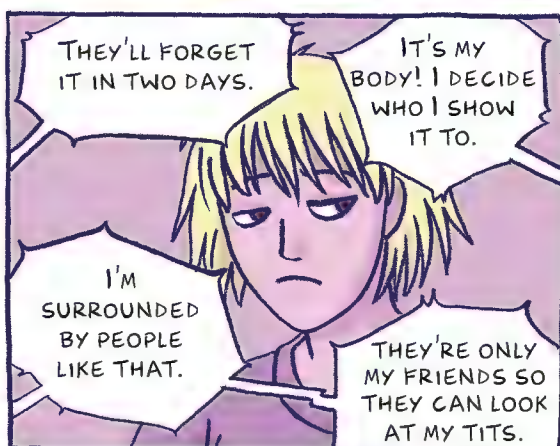
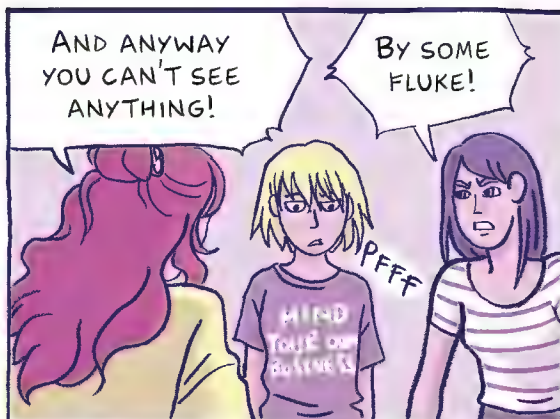
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN
FRIENDS, SINCE WE
WERE TINY.

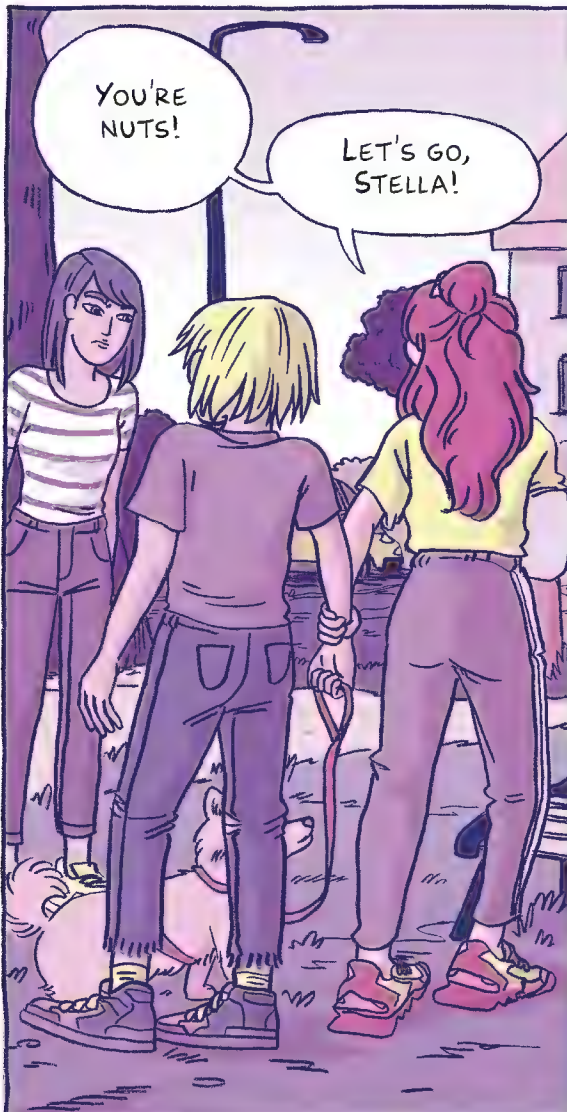
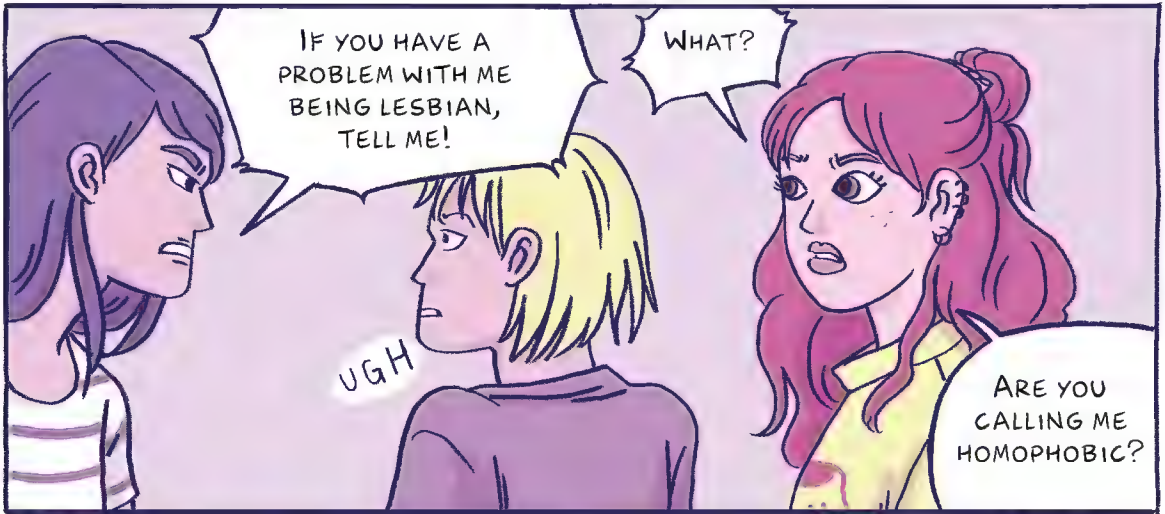
I'D STAND UP FOR HER
AGAINST ANYONE.

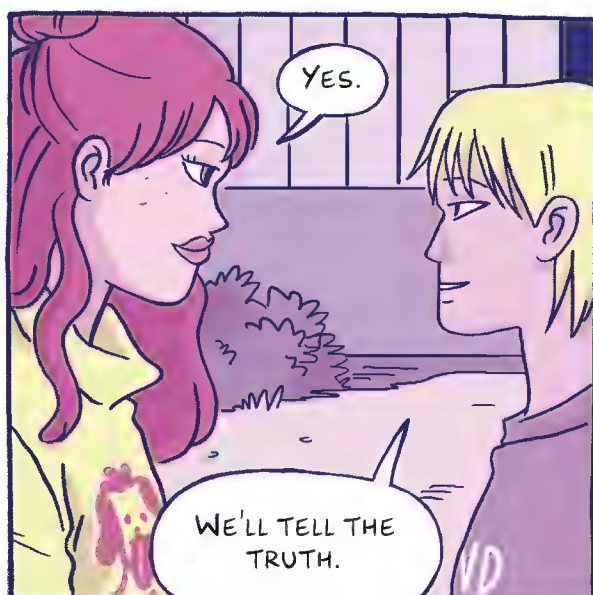
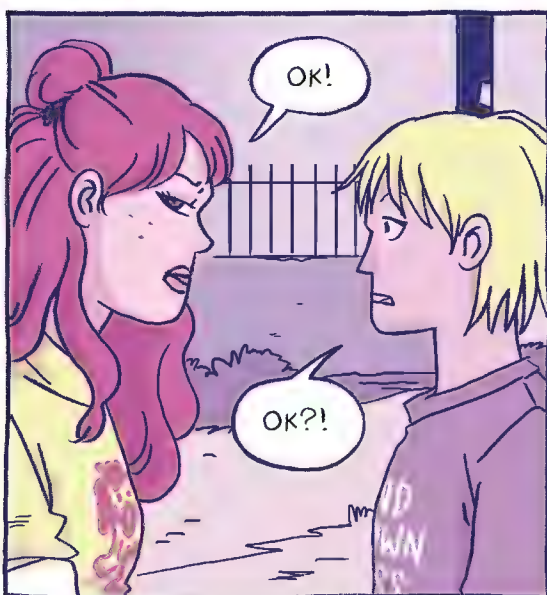
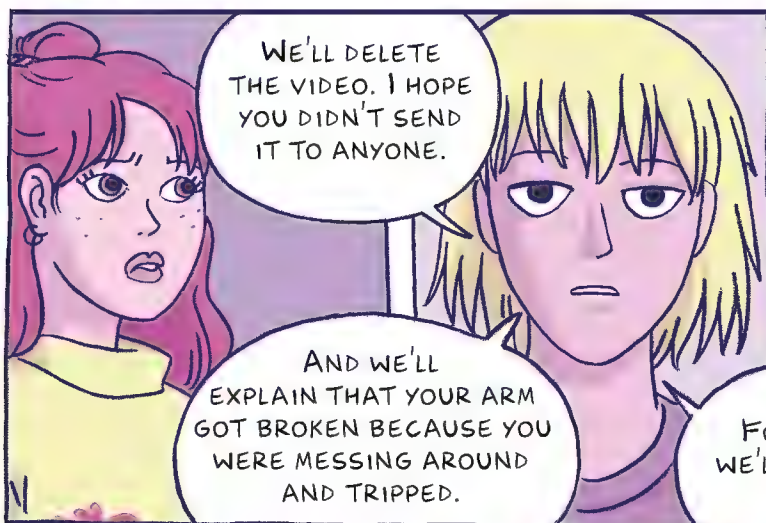
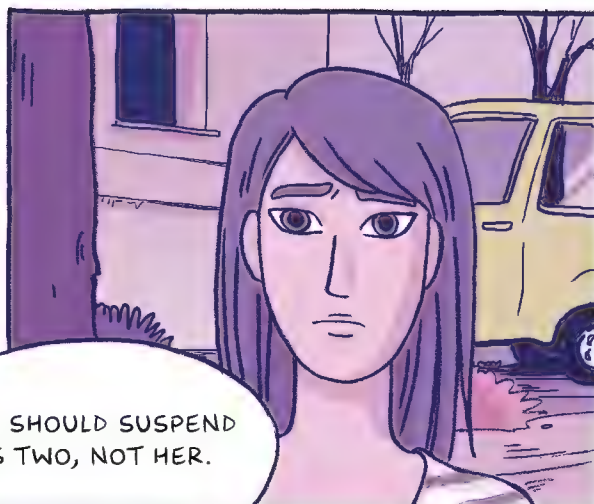
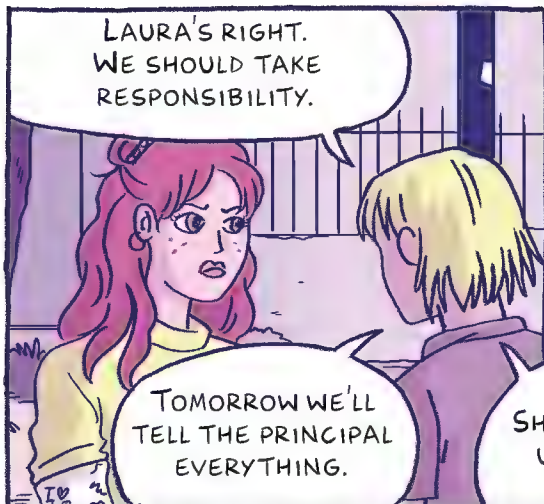
BUT HOW CAN
I SAVE HER FROM
HERSELF?














THE TRUTH.

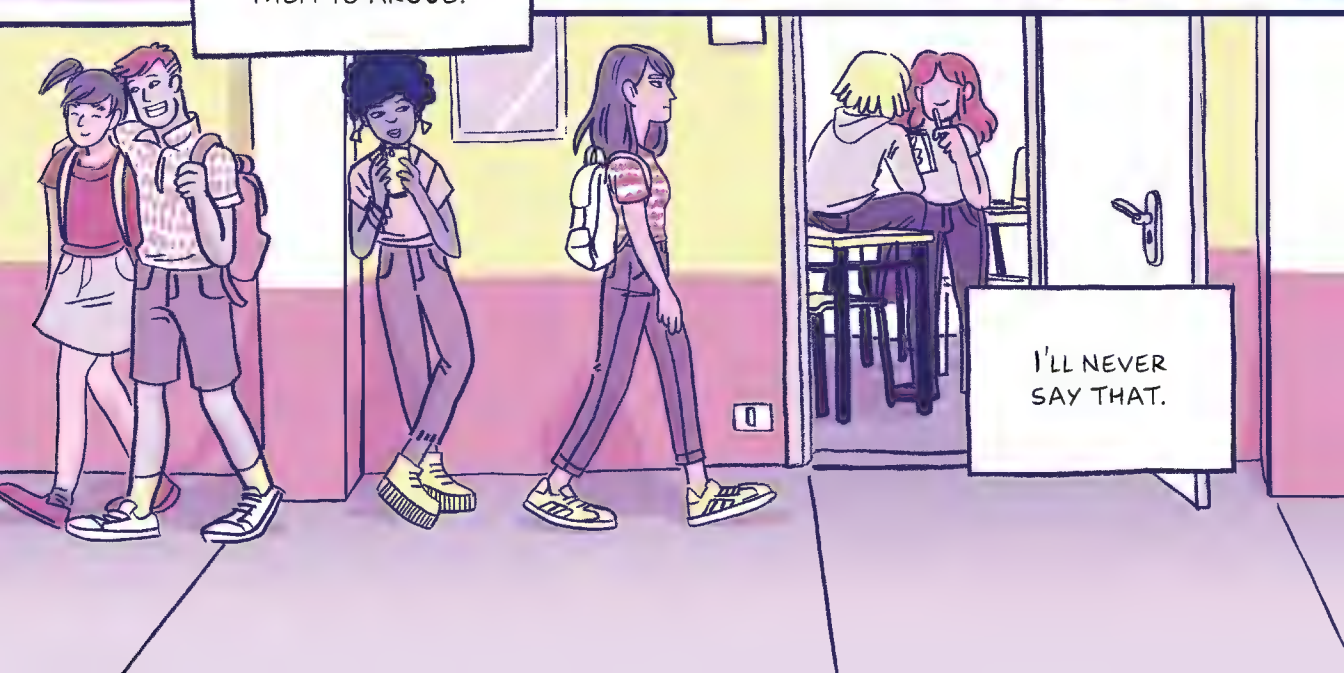
WHAT TRUTH?

WE DEFINITELY WON'T
SAY THAT IZZY DID IT
BECAUSE SHE FEELS SHE
ALWAYS HAS TO KEEP
EVERYONE HAPPY.

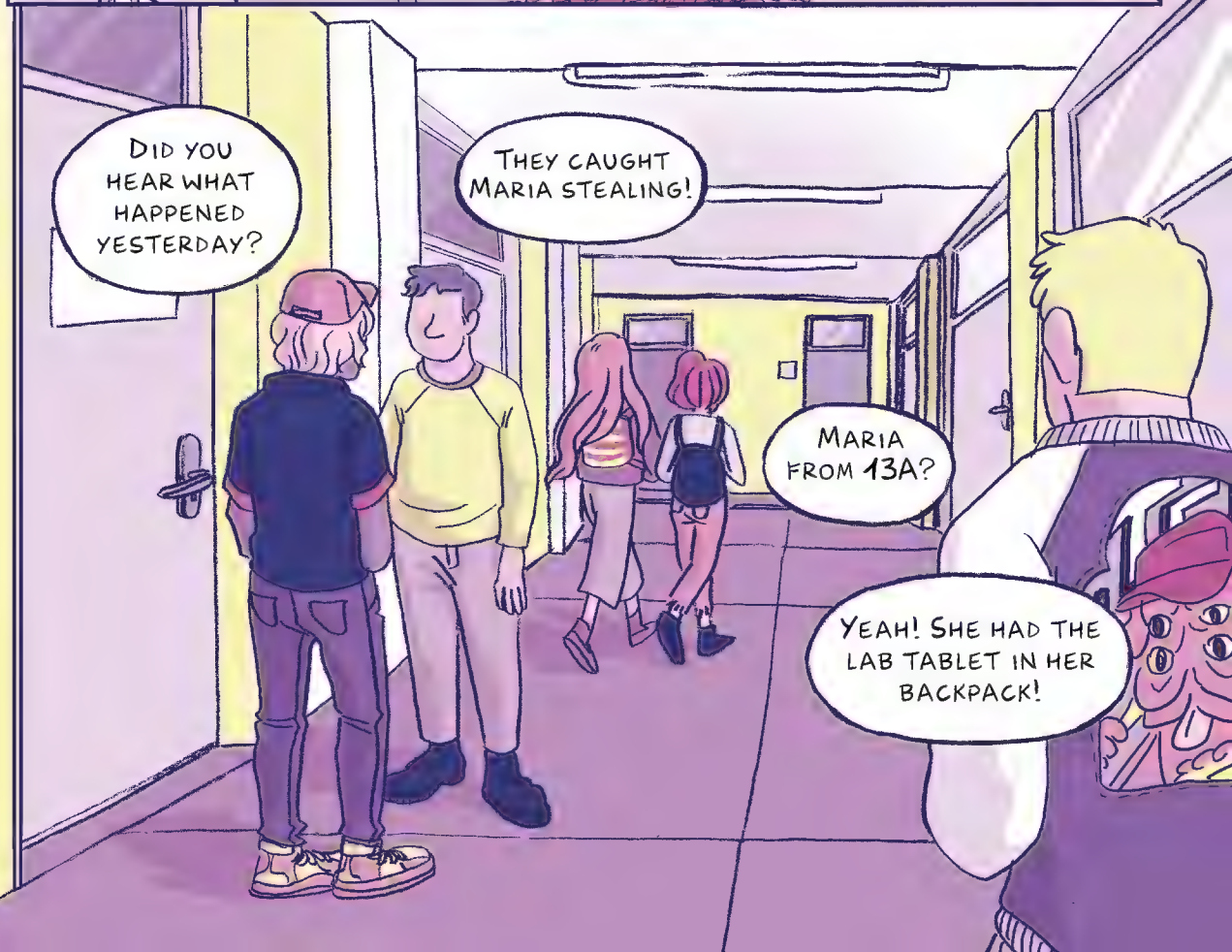
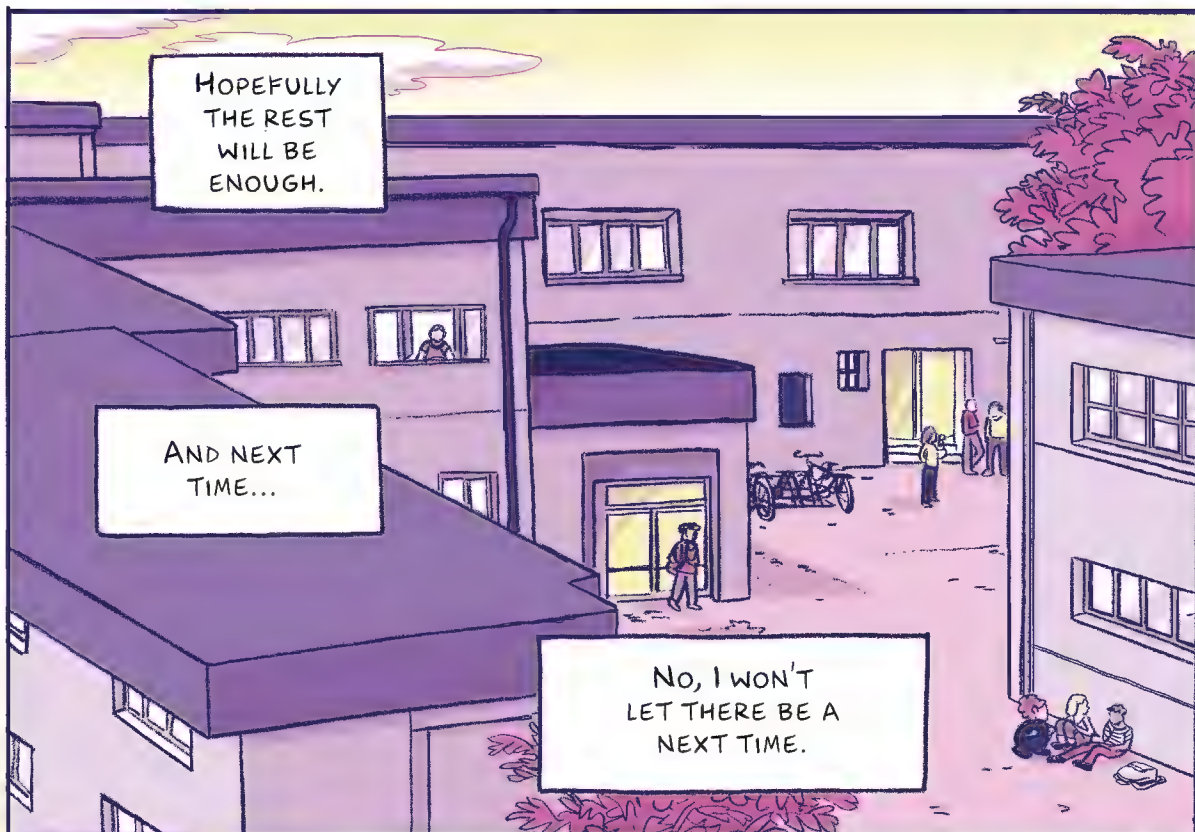


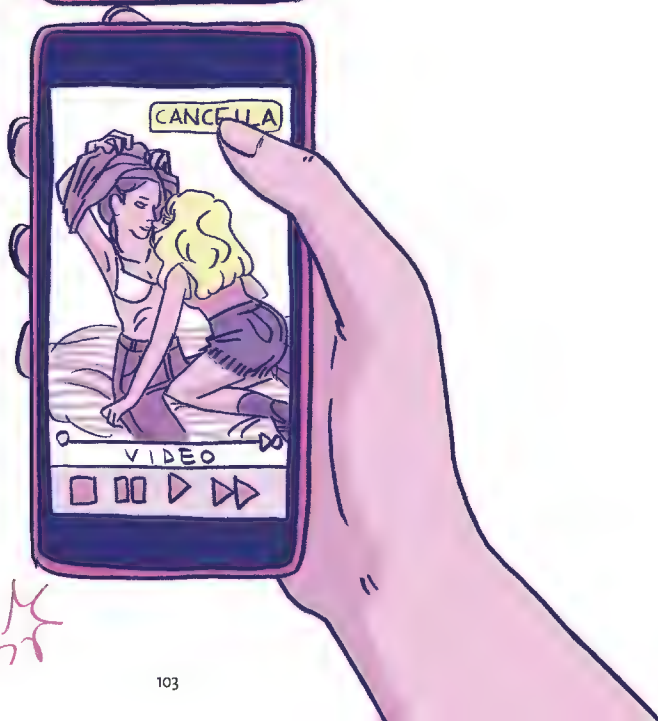
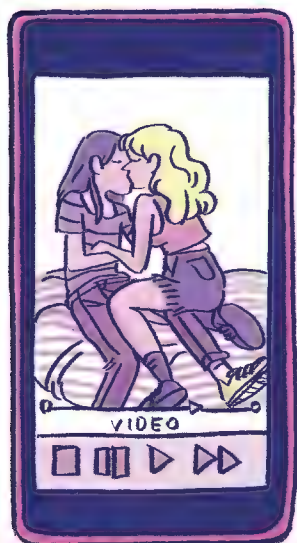
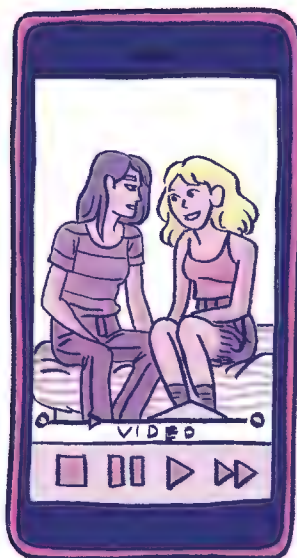
OR THAT I SAID
NOTHING BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT TO BE
THE SPOILSPORT
AGAIN.

OR THAT DEEP
DOWN I WANTED
THEM TO ARGUE.



I'LL NEVER
SAY THAT.





THE YELLOW HOODIE

VEGA GUERRIERI, CATERINA FERRANTE









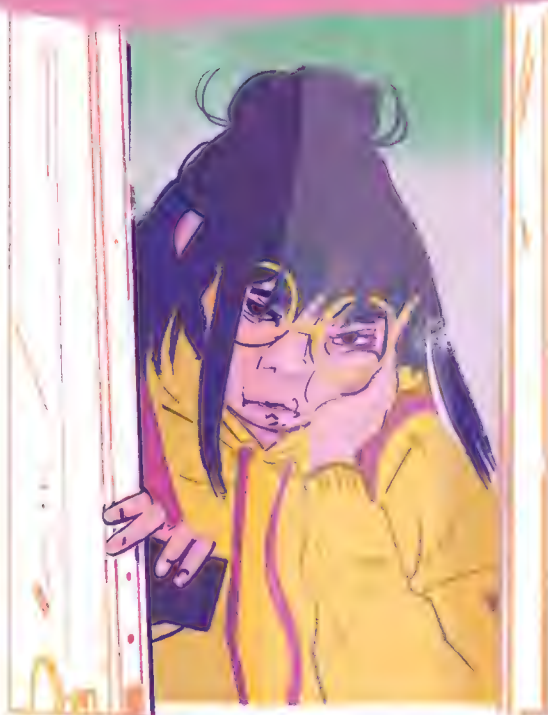
OH WELL, OFF YOU GO. DIET STARTS NEXT WEEK, OK?



WE'LL GET YOU IN SHAPE FOR THE SUMMER.



HOW COULD I THINK OF GOING OUT IN SUCH A SHORT HOODIE?



TOO LATE TO CHANGE IT NOW





HEY, FATSO!

WHERE'S YER "TAXI" SIGN?



DON'T LISTEN TO
THAT ASSHOLE.

WHY DID I PUT SUCH TIGHT
CLOTHES ON?!

IGNORE THEM,
THEY'RE DORKS.

YOU LOOK
GREAT, THEY
DON'T GET IT.



I'VE GOT SO MUCH
TO TELL YOU...

I'M PAT!

DID YOU SEE MARK
YESTERDAY?

OH!!! TELL
ME, TELL ME!



IF ONLY I'D WORN MY
XIV HOODIE...

LUCKILY IT'S NOT LONG
TIL I CAN GO HOME.







OH, LIZ,
YOU ONLY RUN WHEN
GRUB'S UP, HUH?!





ACTUALLY,
I USUALLY WEAR SIZE 12.

I SEE...
I HAVE A GOOD EYE,
THOUGH. I DON'T THINK
ANYTHING SMALLER
THAN A 16 WILL DO,
WITH YOUR CURVES...I'LL
BRING IT OUT FOR YOU.



WHAT MUST THE OTHERS THINK
OF ME, IF THE SHOP ASSISTANT
THINKS I'M A SIZE 16?



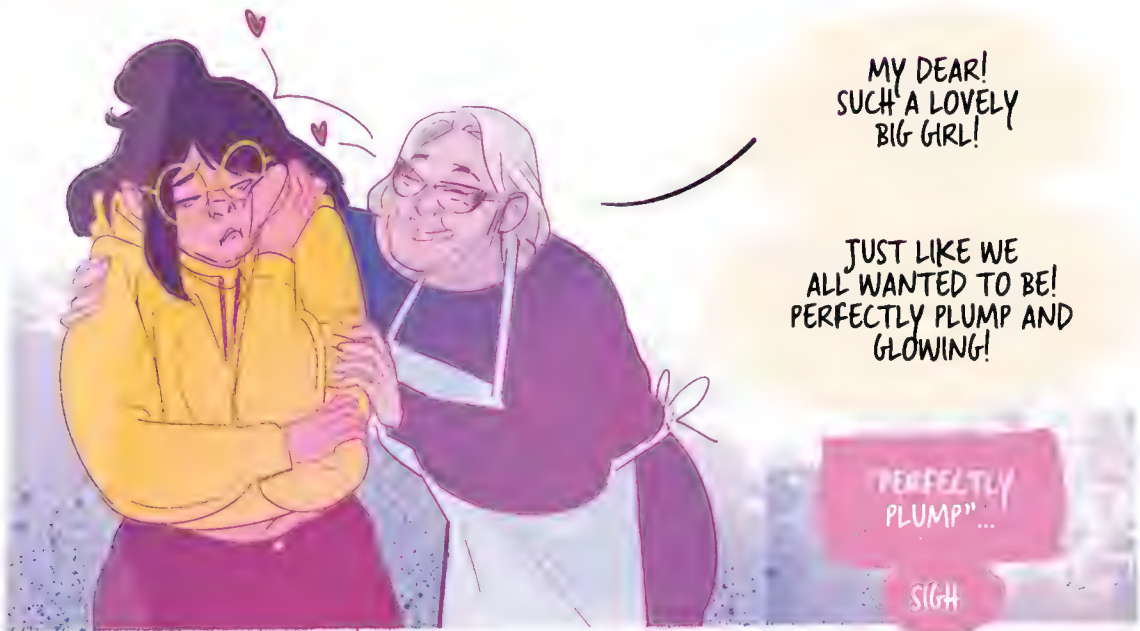
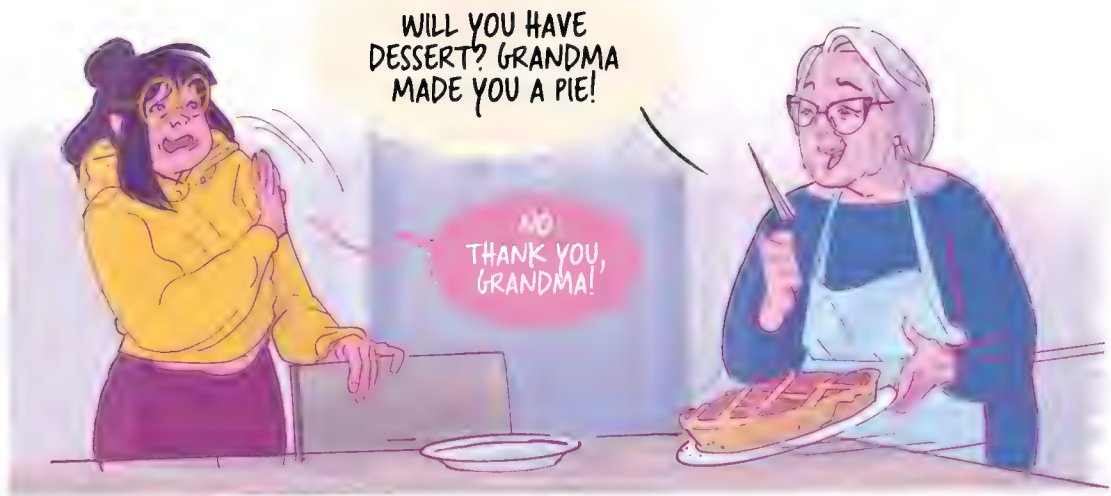
I'M SO FAT



I'LL
NEVER GO
TO THE
BEACH -



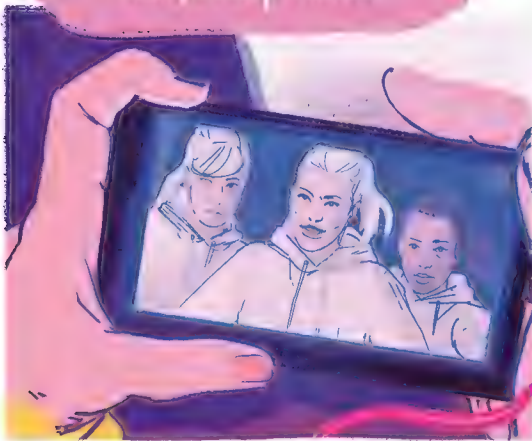






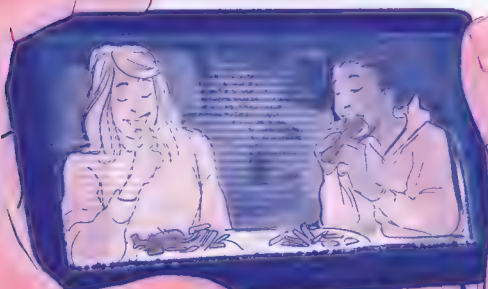
HOW DO THEY ALL STAY SO
SLIM, LUCKY THINGS?

I DO MY BEST,
BUT NOTHING HAPPENS!



MAYBE NOT ENOUGH
EXERCISE? OR NOT ENOUGH
WATER?

I'LL HAVE TO TRY
HARDER!









CRASH

YOU'RE GORGEOUS
AS YOU ARE.

YOU CAN'T
NOT EAT

WHY ARE YOU
DOING THIS?

JUST
IGNORE
THEM!

HEY, TAXIII!

WEREN'T YOU
ON A DIET?

YOU'RE NOT FAT

A LOVELY BIG GIRL

I'LL GET YOU
A SIZE 16!

YOU ONLY RUN
WHEN GRUB'S UP!

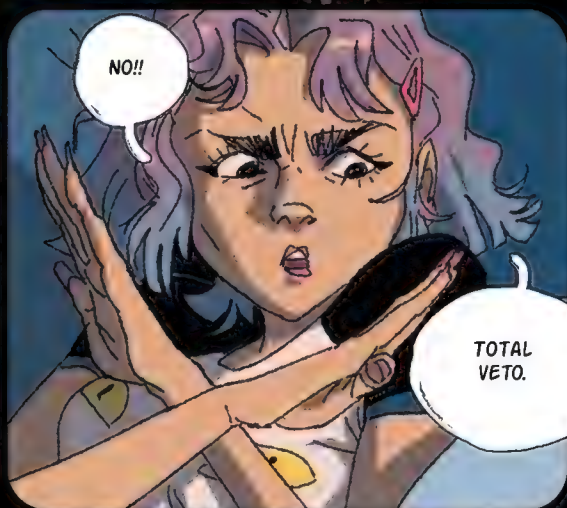
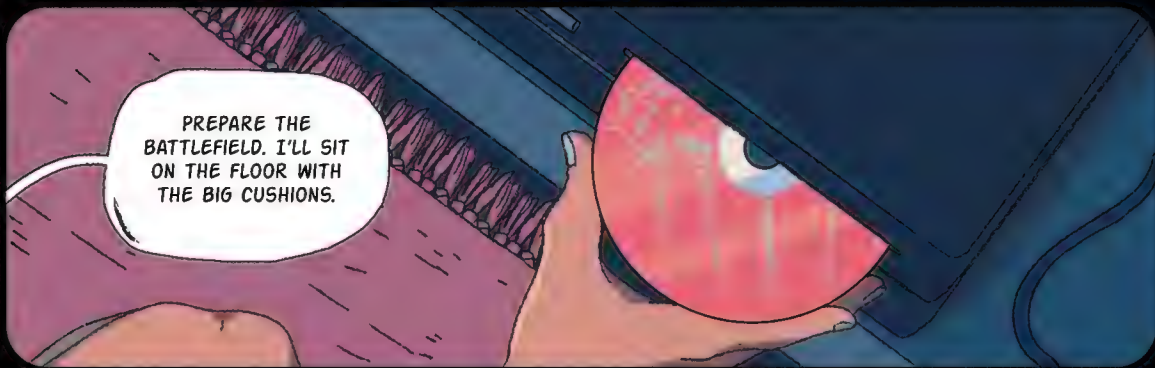
CAREFUL

LAURA GUGLIELMO











THE NEW LORD
GOLDENTHORN HAS
TO BE HANDSOME.
PREFERABLY
IRRESISTIBLE.

THE CHARACTER
CREATOR IN THESE
GAMES IS A TOTAL
MESS, BUT...

...I WANT TO
BELIEVE IN
HIM!



OOOFF.
BORING.



REALLY, THOUGH, THINK
ABOUT THE DRAMATIC
BITS OF THE STORY...



"MY LORD, YOU
MUST SACRIFICE
YOUR RIGHT HAND
TO SUMMON THE
GUARDIANS OF THE
OBSIDIAN..."

...AND LORD
GOLDENTHORN
IS A FREAKING
ELMO.

OK, OK...



WHOOOPS,
I OVERSHOT WITH
THE CHIN SLIDER!

NOOOOOO...

Create Character

Name Goldenthorn
Gender Male
Age Young
Class Knight
Burial Gift Fire Gem
Face Presets
Build
Appearance

<input type="checkbox"/> Level	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Vigor	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Attunement	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Endurance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vitality	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dexterity	
<input type="checkbox"/> Intelligence	
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith	
<input type="checkbox"/> Luck	

Finalize Creation

OH MY, IT'S
PERFECT!
THAT'S HIM!



HE'S A
MASTERPIECE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO
GET STARTED!

I HATE TO
ADMIT IT, BUT I'M
ALREADY A LITTLE
BIT IN LOVE.

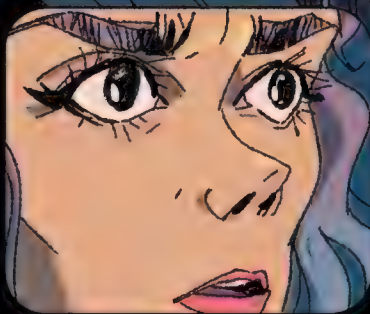
IT'S YOUR
TURN TO
START. OFF
YOU GO!

SO YOU'LL GET
ALL THE HORRIBLE
DEATHS WHILE WE
LEARN THE GAME.
HEH HEH.



GEEZ,
I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU DO IT.

YOU'VE LOST LESS
THAN 20 HP IN
HALF AN HOUR.



THAT'S NOT
SO HARD,
YOU KNOW?



IF YOU'RE
CAREFUL...



HEY, MY
TURN!

IF I GET ONE
DEATH FOR EACH
OF YOURS, I'M
GOOD.



OUCH.
FAMOUS
LAST
WORDS...

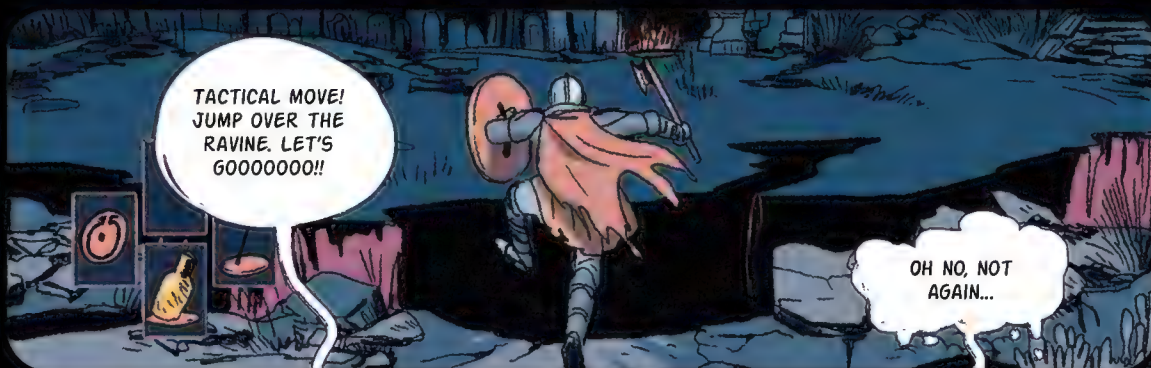
YOU DIED



HMM.
OK.

YOU DIED

--FUL!
THOSE ONES WITH
THE RED EYES ARE
REALLY BAD.



DARN.

YOU DIED

ENOUGH,
THAT'LL
DO.





DON'T RIP
HIM TO
PIECES LIKE
THAT!

POOR
THING!



WE CREATED THAT
PC TOGETHER, TREAT
HIM NICELY!

I KNOW YOU
CARE.



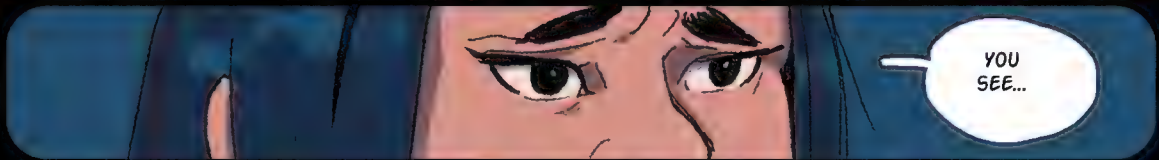
IT'S IRONIC THAT YOU'RE
SO FULL OF AFFECTION AND
EMPATHY FOR SOMEONE WHO
DOESN'T EXIST WHILE YOU
DAMNED WELL GO AHEAD AND
CUT YOURSELF TO PIECES.



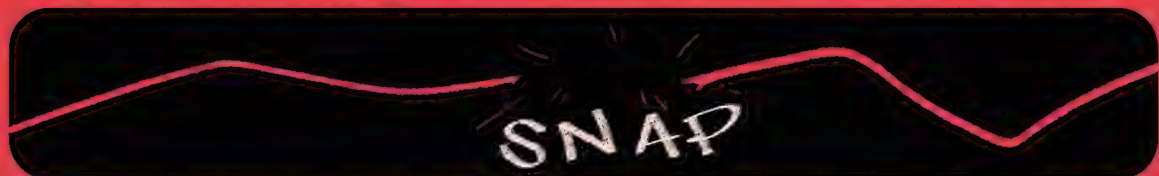
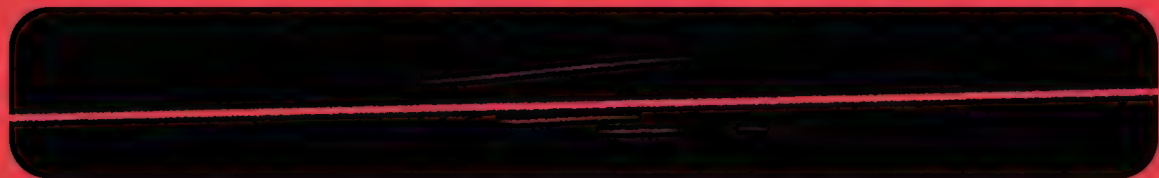
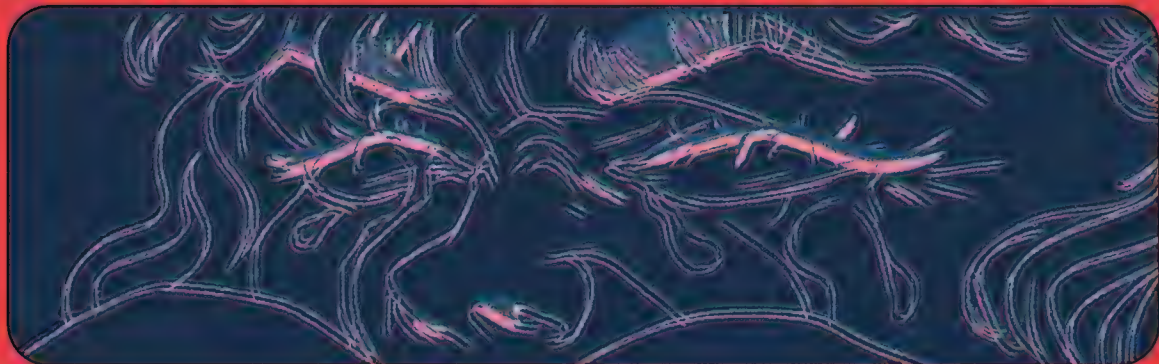
WHAT...?

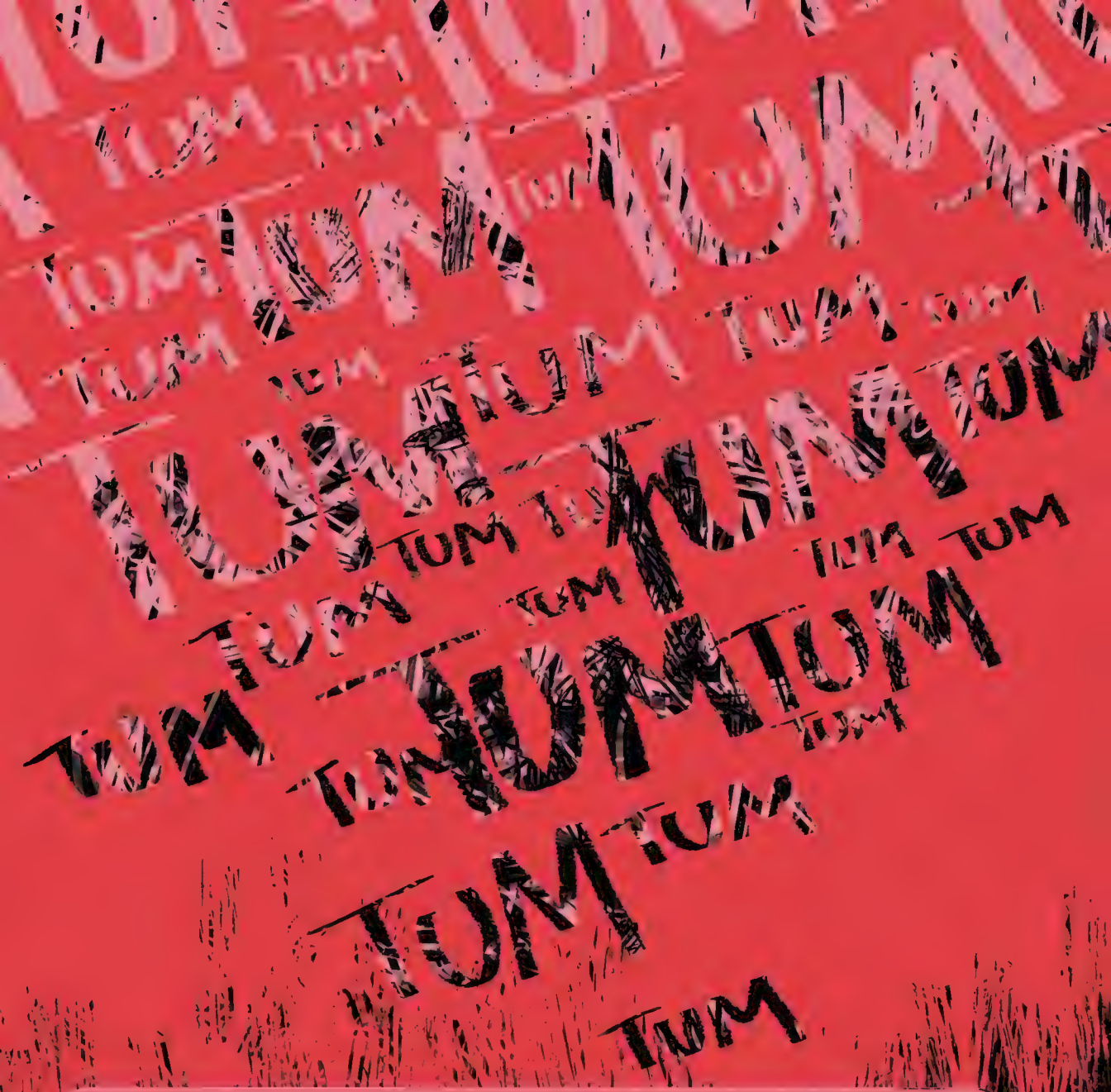
THAT...

WHAT'S THAT GOT
TO DO WITH THIS?



I KNOW
YOU HURT
YOURSELF.



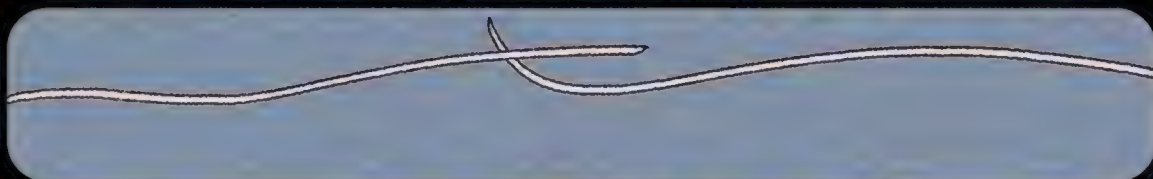




SORRY, I DIDN'T
WANT TO UPSET
YOU EVEN MORE.



I'M JUST
WORRIED TO
DEATH.



I KNOW IT MIGHT BE A
SHITTY QUESTION, BUT I'M
GOING TO ASK IT ANYWAY
BECAUSE I WANT TO UN-
DERSTAND...YOU DON'T HAVE
TO ANSWER, OK?

CAN YOU
TELL ME WHY YOU
DO IT?



"IT'S NOT A SHITTY QUESTION, MARIE. IT'S JUST A BIT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN."



"REMEMBER WHEN I WAS WITH ALEX?"



"YEAH."

"WHEN THINGS STOPPED WORKING OUT, HE MADE OUT THAT IT WAS ALL MY FAULT."



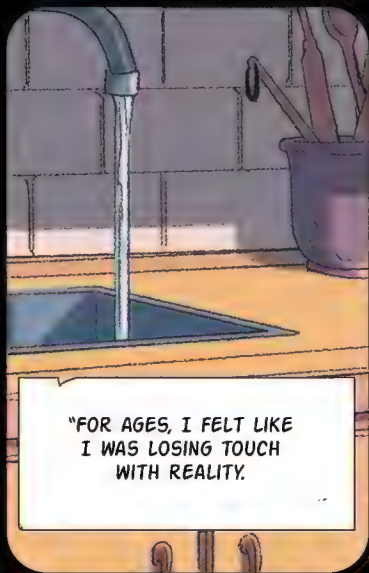
"I STARTED DOUBTING EVERYTHING I WAS DOING AND THINKING. IT WAS THE PITS."



"I THOUGHT I WAS GOING INSANE. WAS I REALLY THE PERSON ALEX SAID I WAS?"



"CRAP. IF SO, THEN I WAS THE SCUM OF THE WORLD. A MANIPULATIVE MONSTER."



"FOR AGES, I FELT LIKE I WAS LOSING TOUCH WITH REALITY."



"THEN I DISCOVERED THAT PHYSICAL PAIN BROUGHT ME BACK, KIND OF."



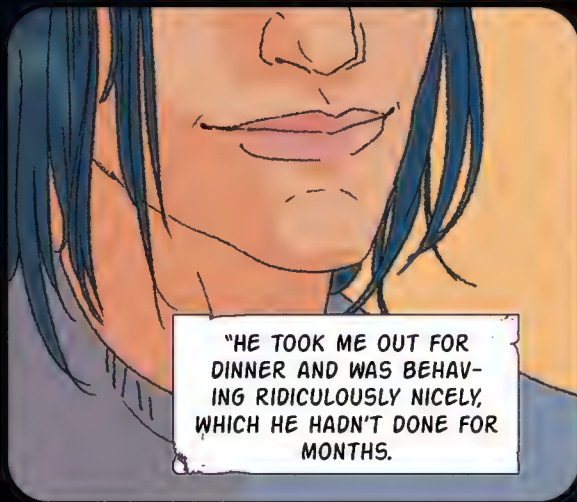
"IT KEEPS ME ON THE GROUND, AND IT MAKES ME FEEL NUMB."

"BUT IT DOESN'T LAST LONG."

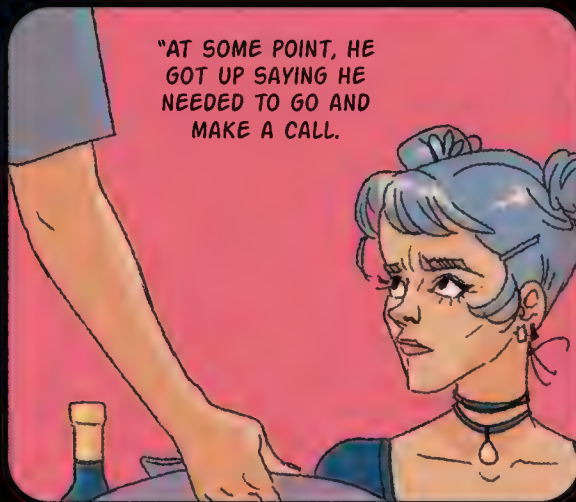


"I STARTED DOING IT
OBSESSIVELY, THOUGH I WAS
ASHAMED AS HELL.

"THEN THINGS GOT WORSE WHEN
ALEX LEFT ME...ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T TELL
YOU EXACTLY HOW THAT WENT, EITHER.



"HE TOOK ME OUT FOR DINNER AND WAS BEHAVING RIDICULOUSLY NICELY, WHICH HE HADN'T DONE FOR MONTHS."



"AT SOME POINT, HE GOT UP SAYING HE NEEDED TO GO AND MAKE A CALL."



"HE RESURFACED THE NEXT DAY."

21 April 2021, 08:24

I knew you were a bitch who doesn't care a shit about me



THAT PRICK.

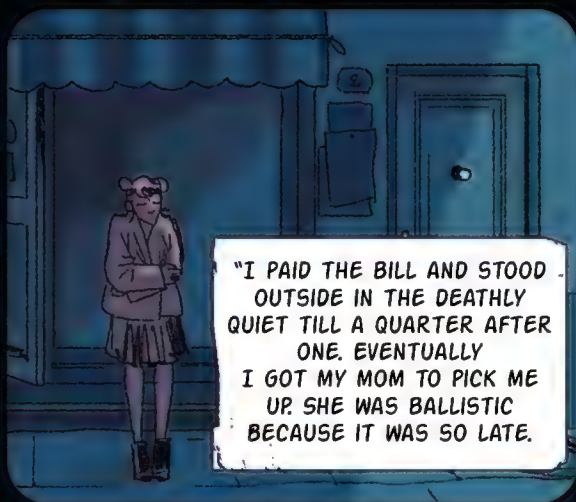


WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?



"I SAT THERE LIKE AN IDIOT."

"I SAT THERE WAITING UNTIL THE RESTAURANT CLOSED. I TRIED TO CALL ALEX AND MESSAGE HIM, BUT HE DIDN'T COME BACK."



"I PAID THE BILL AND STOOD OUTSIDE IN THE DEATHLY QUIET TILL A QUARTER AFTER ONE. EVENTUALLY I GOT MY MOM TO PICK ME UP. SHE WAS BALLISTIC BECAUSE IT WAS SO LATE."



i'm sick and you don't even come to look for me, you just sit there and eat your crappy steak, you could have called my dad when I couldn't answer, damn you piece of selfish shit

don't bother even replying, you don't deserve to be with me

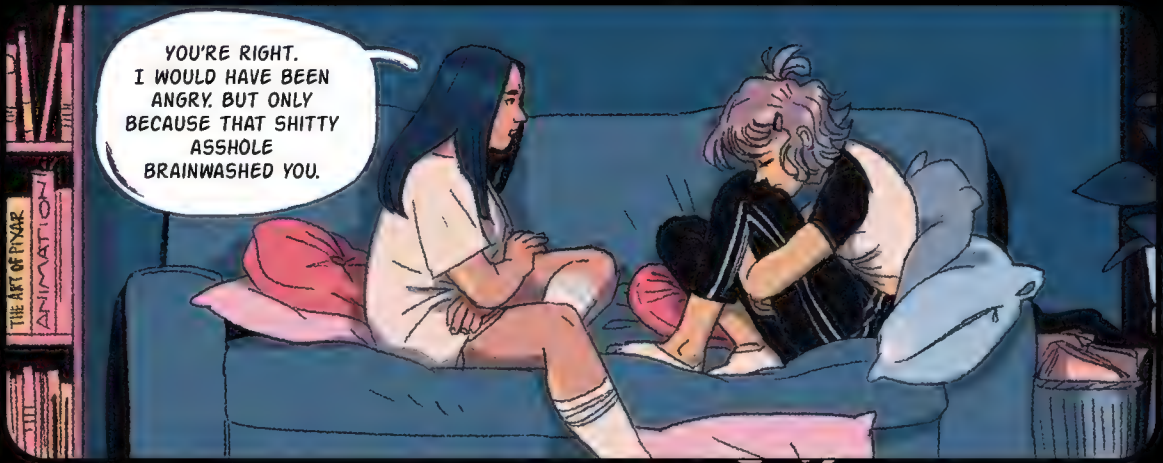
26 June 2021, 23:09

Wow two months later and still nothing from you. I was right you don't give a damn.



BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GET ANGRY WITH ME FOR BEING A WUSS.





YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN
ANGRY. BUT ONLY
BECAUSE THAT SHITTY
ASSHOLE
BRAINWASHED YOU.

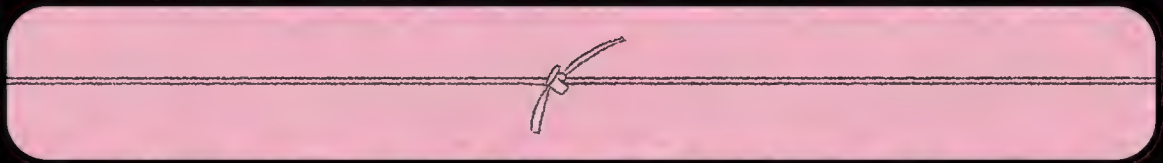


YOU...YOU'RE
NOT ANGRY
WITH ME?



GOD, NO!
I FEEL TERRIBLE
FOR YOU AND I'M
FURIOUS WITH
ALEX!

FOR SO
MANY
REASONS.



FOR HAVING
THE GALL TO WILDLY
GASLIGHT YOU AND
MAKE YOU THINK
YOU WERE THE
PROBLEM...



AND EVEN MORE FOR
WHAT YOU'RE GOING
THROUGH NOW AND
BECAUSE I DIDN'T
PICK UP ON IT AND
HELP YOU.



NO, THAT'S
NOT YOUR...



I COULD HAVE
SAID SOMETHING,
ASKED YOU FOR HELP.
BUT I JUST CURLED
INTO A BALL LIKE A
HEDGEHOG.



BUT...

...YES?

IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT WE
FAILED TO DO. WHAT
MATTERS IS WHAT
WE DO NOW.



I KNOW THIS ISN'T
A PROBLEM THAT WILL GO AWAY
IN A FLASH, JUST BECAUSE
WE'VE TALKED ABOUT IT. BUT
PLEASE PROMISE ME YOU'LL
NEVER THINK YOU HAVE TO DEAL
WITH IT ON YOUR OWN.

IT'S JUST ANOTHER
NASTY BOSS WITH IRON
BALLS AND WE'LL KICK HIS
ASS TOGETHER, OK?


OK.

UNDER PRESSURE

DAVIDE COSTA, ELISA2B







LOOK AT THAT
FLABBY BELLY.

ZERO
MUSCLES.

A BEANPOLE WITH
A BELLY. THE WORST
OF BOTH WORLDS.
GREAT.

WHAT
A JERK.

A JERK
WHO'S LATE.

NOT MUCH CHANCE
OF CATCHING HER,
IS THERE.

THANKS FOR THE
SUPPORT, DAMMIT.
AT LEAST I WASH
EVERY DAY.



BECAUSE
YOU'RE A PUSSY.
DO YOU DO YOUR
EYELASHES?

SHAVE YOUR
LEGS?

YOU SHOULD GIVE YOUR
PUBES A BIT OF A MOW
THOUGH, MAKE IT LOOK
BIGGER.

SHAVING ASIDE, YOU
COULD DO WITH A CHANGE
OF GOODS. HA HA HA!



NO HOPE
WITH THAT
LITTLE
PRICK.

MY DICK IS
PERFECTLY
AVERAGE,
ASSHOLE.

SURE, AVERAGE
FOR A TWELVE-
YEAR-OLD :D

LISTEN, COCK EXPERT.
HOW MANY DO YOU
LOOK AT A DAY?

KNOW HOW MANY
SHE SEES EVERY
WEEK?

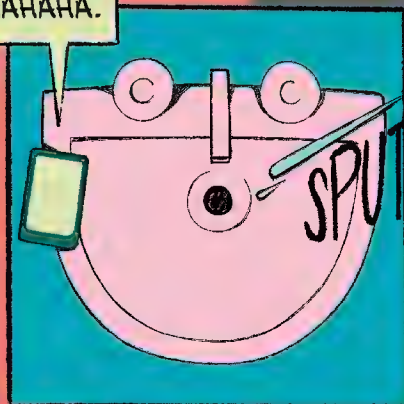
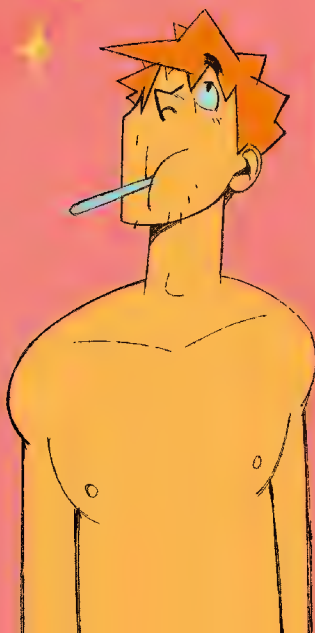
THAT SLUT DOESN'T
LET ANY GET AWAY.

SOMETIMES
TWO AT ONCE,
I BET.

JUDGING BY
HER ORGY
FACE.

THINK OF ALL THAT
EXPERIENCE IN
ONE PUSSY.

HAHAHA.



AND YOU
NONE!

NADA,
NIENTE,
ZILCH!

IN THE DISTRICT. IN
THE WHOLE CITY. HOW
THE HELL ARE YOU A
VIRGIN AT SEVENTEEN?

THESE DAYS IF YOU
WANT TO SCREW...
YOU CAN USE
DATING APPS?

EXCEPT THEY
WANT TO SHAG
FIT PEOPLE,
ESPECIALLY
MARA.

THE LEAST
TOUCHED PRICK
IN SCHOOL.

THEY'RE FULL
OF BABES WHO
WANT TO SHAG,
DOOFUS.

RIGHT, SHE DOESN'T
WANT A GUY WHO'S
SCARED OF HIS OWN
SHADOW WHEN HE
GOES OUTSIDE.

SOMEONE WHO HAS
TO REHEARSE EV-
ERY SENTENCE BE-
FORE HE TALKS.

SHE'S A
SURE THING,
THIS ONE.

EVERYONE
KNOWS SHE'S AN
EASY CATCH.

SHE DOESN'T MISS
A TRICK, SHE COL-
LECTS BOTH VINYL
AND MICS, YOU KNOW.

IF YOU CAN'T GET
IT ON WITH ONE
LIKE HER, SCREW
YOURSELF.

'CAUSE DEEP
DOWN...



BellimbustoAcademy

1,237
posts

56k
Followers

0
Following


Bellimbusto Academy

Follow

Message

YOU PROBABLY
REALLY LIKE...

...COCK. YOU'RE
TOO WEIRD TO
BE STRAIGHT.



THAT'S WHY YOU
STARE AT MUSCLY
MEN, HUH?

OR IS IT JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE PISSED OFF
ABOUT LOOKING LIKE
YOU'RE TWELVE?

YOU NEED
TO GET FIT
FOR THE GIRLS, DOOFUS.

BROAD
SHOULDERS,
THIN WAIST,
STRONG THIGHS.

WHEN YOU GET NEAR
HER, SHE HAS TO FEEL
YOUR PRESENCE,
EVEN WHEN SHE'S
NOT LOOKING.

YOU HAVE
TO DOMINATE THE
ROOM, KEEP ANY
OTHER ASSHOLES
AT BAY.

MOST OF ALL,
DOMINATE HER.

X +
10 MISTAKES NEVER TO
MAKE ON THE FIRST DATE

WITHOUT HER
KNOWING.

LIFE COACH

SHE HAS TO THINK
SHE'S IN THE
DRIVER'S SEAT.

BUT YOU'RE THE
REAL BOSS OF THE
SITUATION.

YOU HAVE TO BE
DIRECT, DECISIVE,
SHARP.

AND IF SHE
SAYS NO...



...SHE
REALLY
MEANS
YES!

YOU JUST
INSIST,
PERSIST, AND
CONQUER.

IF SHE PULLS
AWAY, YOU STEP
FORWARD.

IF SHE SAYS
SHE'S BUSY, YOU
SAY YOU'RE FREE
ANOTHER DAY.

IF SHE SAYS SHE'S
NOT INTERESTED,
YOU SAY THAT'S
JUST BECAUSE
SHE DOESN'T
KNOW YOU YET.

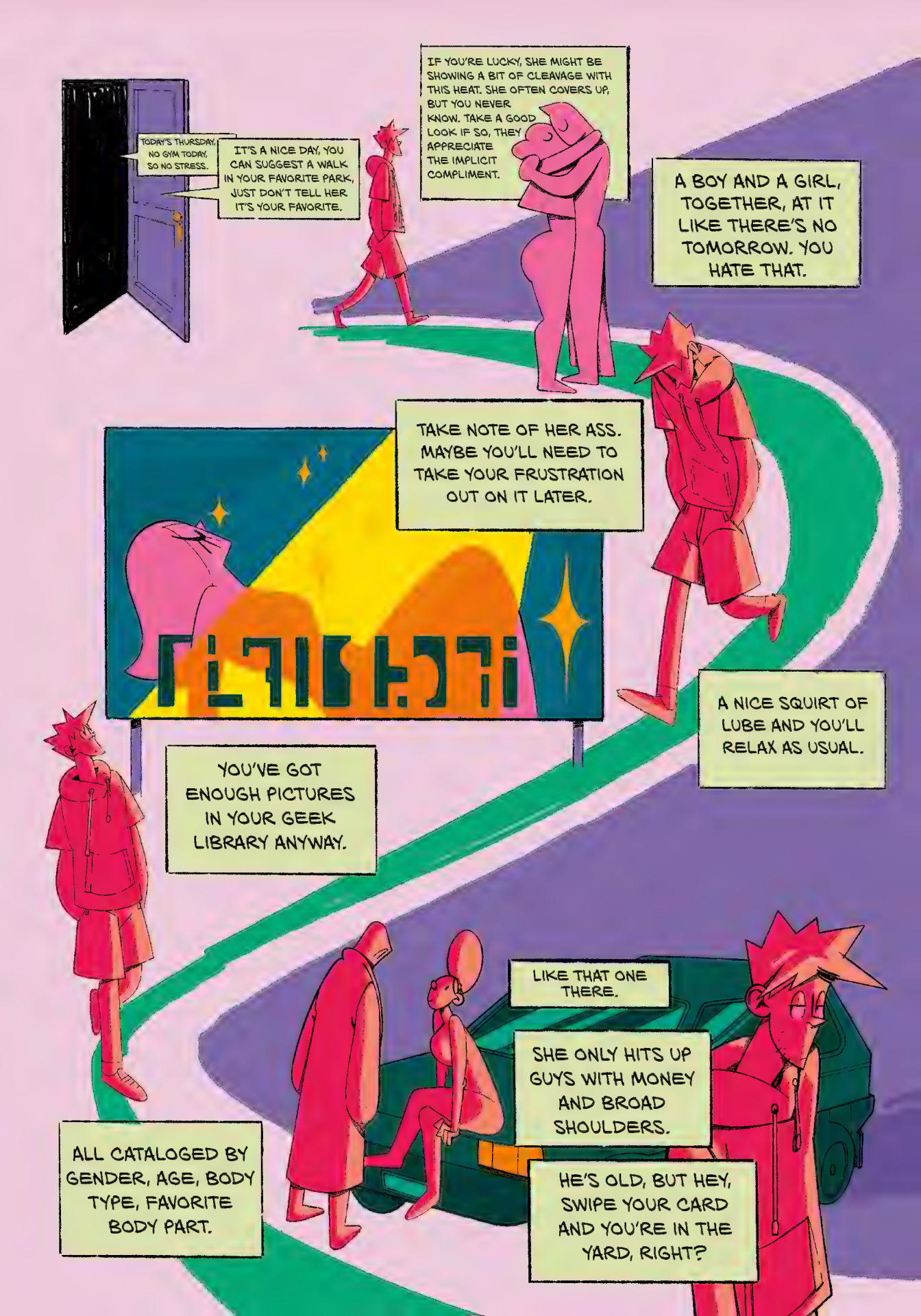
YOU JUST NEED A
CHANCE TO TALK, NO
STRINGS ATTACHED.

SAY SHE NEEDN'T BE SO
PRECIOUS, YOU KNOW
HOW CHATTY SHE IS.

DON'T SHIT YOUR
PANTS, YOU'RE
RIGHT ON TIME.

YOU CAN ARRIVE CHILLED,
NO NEED TO RUN AND
SWEAT LIKE A PIG.
OTHERWISE SHE'LL THINK
YOU SMELL.

EVEN IF MAS-
OULINE SMELLS
DO HELP...YOU'RE
RIGHT ON TIME,
YOU KNOW HER
SCHEDULE.



TODAY'S THURSDAY,
NO GYM TODAY,
SO NO STRESS.

IT'S A NICE DAY, YOU
CAN SUGGEST A WALK
IN YOUR FAVORITE PARK,
JUST DON'T TELL HER
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE.

IF YOU'RE LUCKY, SHE MIGHT BE
SHOWING A BIT OF CLEAVAGE WITH
THIS HEAT. SHE OFTEN COVERS UP,
BUT YOU NEVER
KNOW. TAKE A GOOD
LOOK IF SO, THEY
APPRECIATE
THE IMPLICIT
COMPLIMENT.

A BOY AND A GIRL,
TOGETHER, AT IT
LIKE THERE'S NO
TOMORROW. YOU
HATE THAT.

TAKE NOTE OF HER ASS.
MAYBE YOU'LL NEED TO
TAKE YOUR FRUSTRATION
OUT ON IT LATER.

A NICE SQUIRT OF
LUBE AND YOU'LL
RELAX AS USUAL.

YOU'VE GOT
ENOUGH PICTURES
IN YOUR GEEK
LIBRARY ANYWAY.

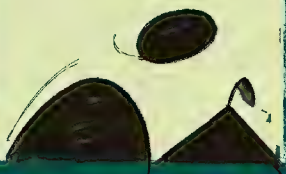
LIKE THAT ONE
THERE.

SHE ONLY HITS UP
GUYS WITH MONEY
AND BROAD
SHOULDERS.

ALL CATALOGED BY
GENDER, AGE, BODY
TYPE, FAVORITE
BODY PART.

HE'S OLD, BUT HEY,
SWIPE YOUR CARD
AND YOU'RE IN THE
YARD, RIGHT?

NOT
YOU,
PENNILESS.



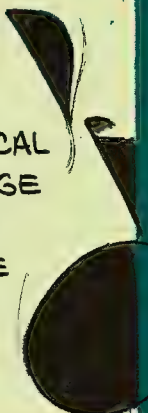
CHARISMA
OF A
SQUID.



BARELY
STRONG
ENOUGH TO
BLOW
A SOAP
BUBBLE.



ONLY
THEORETICAL
KNOWLEDGE
OF THE
FEMALE
BODY.



OBSESSIVE
DESIRE
TO TOUCH
A WOMAN.



CHARM SHE
WON'T FIND
EVEN IF SHE
SEARCHES
ONLINE.



SENSE OF
HUMOR: FLAT
AS A PANCAKE.



HEAD LIKE
A HOT AIR
BALLOON.



NEARLY
THERE,
DUDE.

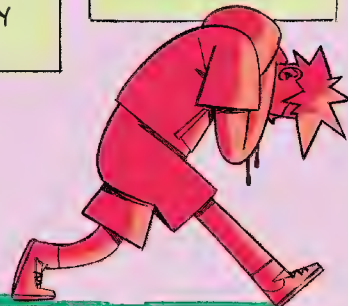
YOU'RE
SWEATING.
SHE'LL NOTICE.

THAT THROBBING YOU CAN
FEEL IS YOUR FEAR THAT SHE
AND HER FRIENDS WILL
LAUGH AT YOU.

THOSE BUTTERFLIES
IN YOUR STOMACH COULD
TURN INTO VOMIT ANY
SECOND.

REMEMBER: INSIST,
THEY LIKE IT.

BUT JUST GET A
MOVE ON NOW...



...SHE'S COMING OUT
OF THE SHOP!

WHAT A
STUNNER.

FABULOUS
BACKSIDE.

DRINK, DINNER IF YOU PLAY
IT WELL, AND THEN AAAAAH.

NO CLEAVAGE BUT
YOU CAN SEE THERE'S
PLENTY THERE.

SHE WANTS YOU TO
WANT MORE.

I CAN TELL SHE
WANTS IT FROM
HERE.

GO ON,
DOOFUS, NOW
OR NEVER.

CHIU

CLEAR YOUR THROAT
BEFORE YOU SPLUTTER
ALL OVER HER WHEN
YOU SAY HI.

TUMMY IN,
SHOULDERS
BACK.

THE FIRST
IMPRESSION
IS MOST
IMPORTANT,
MAN.

LOOK HER IN THE EYE,
BUT GLANCE DOWN
THERE TOO, TO FLATTER
HER.

DECISIVE,
SMILING, THE
PENETRATING
LOOK.

OTHER KINDS OF
PENETRATION
LATER, HAHAAH.



HI!
DO YOU
MIND IF...

SHE CAN'T
HEAR YOU,
LOSER.

YOU HAVE THE
OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS OF
A MORON. YOU WOULDN'T
FIND HER BOOBS IF THEY
SLAPPED YOU IN THE FACE.

SHE HAS
HEADPHONES
ON, BUT
NEVER MIND.

PUT A HAND ON
HER SHOULDER
AND GRAB HER
ATTENTION.

YOU'RE
THERE!

GOT HER!

SHE'S YOURS.
NOW DON'T MESS
IT UP, YOU'RE
NEARLY ON IT.

NOT LONG AND
YOU'LL HAVE HAD
HER GOOD AND
PROPER. OH HO HO.

DON'T LET
HER GO,
DOOFUS.

HEY,
MARA!
HI...



...IT'S MARCUS.
WE MET A FEW TIMES
IN THE SHOP WHILE YOU
WERE WORKING AND ONE
TIME I WAS THERE WHEN YOU
WERE SORTING THE NEW
RELEASES. YOU NEARLY
DROPPED A DISC AND I CAUGHT
IT FOR YOU. THAT'S HOW
I KNOW YOUR NAME, I
INTRODUCED MYSELF AND
YOU SAID I SHOULD
CALL YOU MARA.









YOU GIVE
EVERYONE
BLOWJOBS AND
YOU WON'T EVEN
MEET HIM??

YOU'RE NOT
EVEN GOOD
LOOKING.

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING JUST
STANDING
THERE? ASK
HER AGAIN!



LISTEN,
I...

FIRM VOICE,
NO MUMBLING,
DICKHEAD.

INSIST,
INSIST,
INSIST.



...UNDERSTAND.
NO PROBLEM, SORRY
FOR BOTHERING YOU.
HAVE A NICE EVENING.

OK, BYE,
SORRY.

NO
PROBLEM,
REALLY!

WHERE ARE YOUR
BALLS, ASSHOLE?

YOU'RE SUCH A
LOSER.

TOMORROW AT THE GYM
EVERYONE WILL LAUGH AT YOU.

I'M TELLING
YOU, YOU LIKE
COCK, YOU
JUST WON'T
ADMIT IT.

STUNTED
FUCKWIT.

YOU'LL CRY LATER WHEN
YOU MASTURBATE WITH
HER PHOTO, IDIOT.

WE WERE
LUCKY THIS
TIME.

WAIT TILL
HE GETS A BIT
FURTHER AWAY,
KEEP HIM IN
SIGHT.

AND HOLD
YOUR KEYS.

MAYBE YOU
GAVE HIM
THE WRONG
MESSAGE.

WE NEED TO
BE MORE
SEXY.

WE COULD
LOSE SOME
WEIGHT.

EVERYONE
DOES IT,
RIGHT?

THESE TROUSERS
ARE WIDE. THEY'RE
NOT SEXY, RIGHT?

HOW DID
HE KNOW
YOU'RE
SINGLE?

HE KNOWS
WHICH WAY WE
WALK!

DID WE USE
TOO MUCH
MAKEUP?



HE MIGHT
FOLLOW US.

WE NEED
TO CROSS
OVER.

GRAB YOUR
PHONE.

TEXT A
FRIEND.

MAYBE WE
SMILED
TOO MUCH.

LET'S TAKE
THE LONG
WAY ROUND,
IT'S BETTER
LIT.

IS HE
FOLLOWING?

DOES
HE KNOW
WHERE I
LIVE?

I'M TOO
HARSH.
MAYBE I'M
FRIGID.

MAYBE I
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN MORE
DECISIVE.

IF I DON'T
MAKE A MOVE,
I'LL ALWAYS BE
SINGLE.

IS HE
FOLLOWING?

LIKE THAT
OLD GUY
TEN YEARS
AGO.

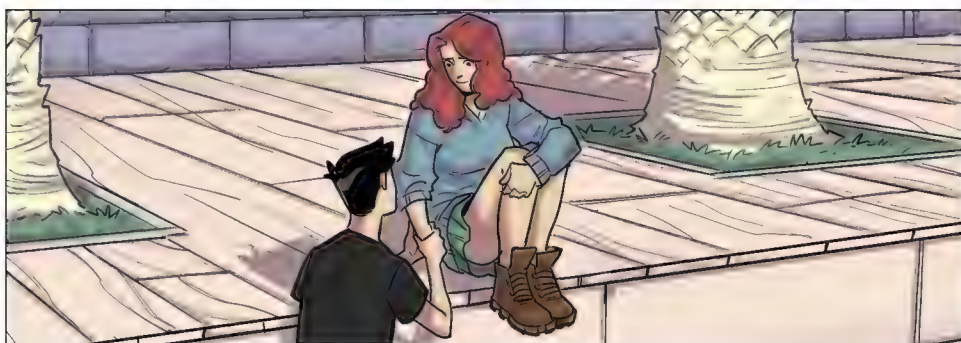
BUT
IF HE'S
STRONGER...



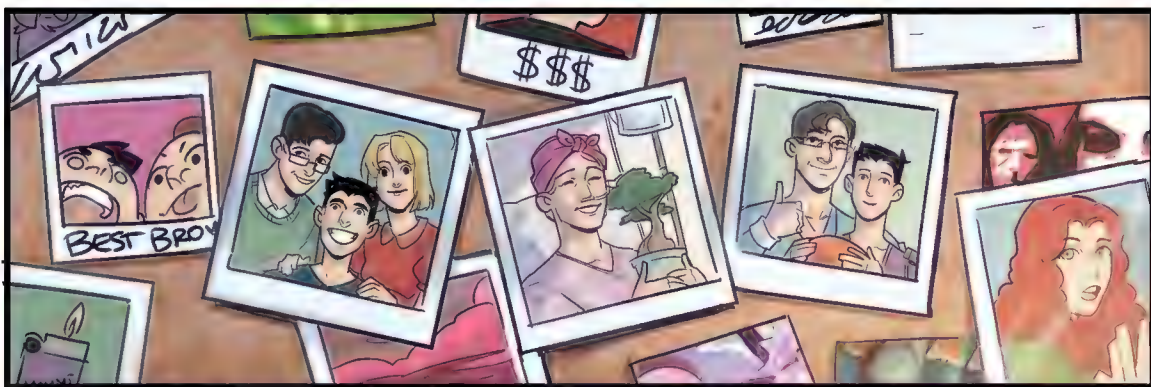
IS HE
FOLLOWING?

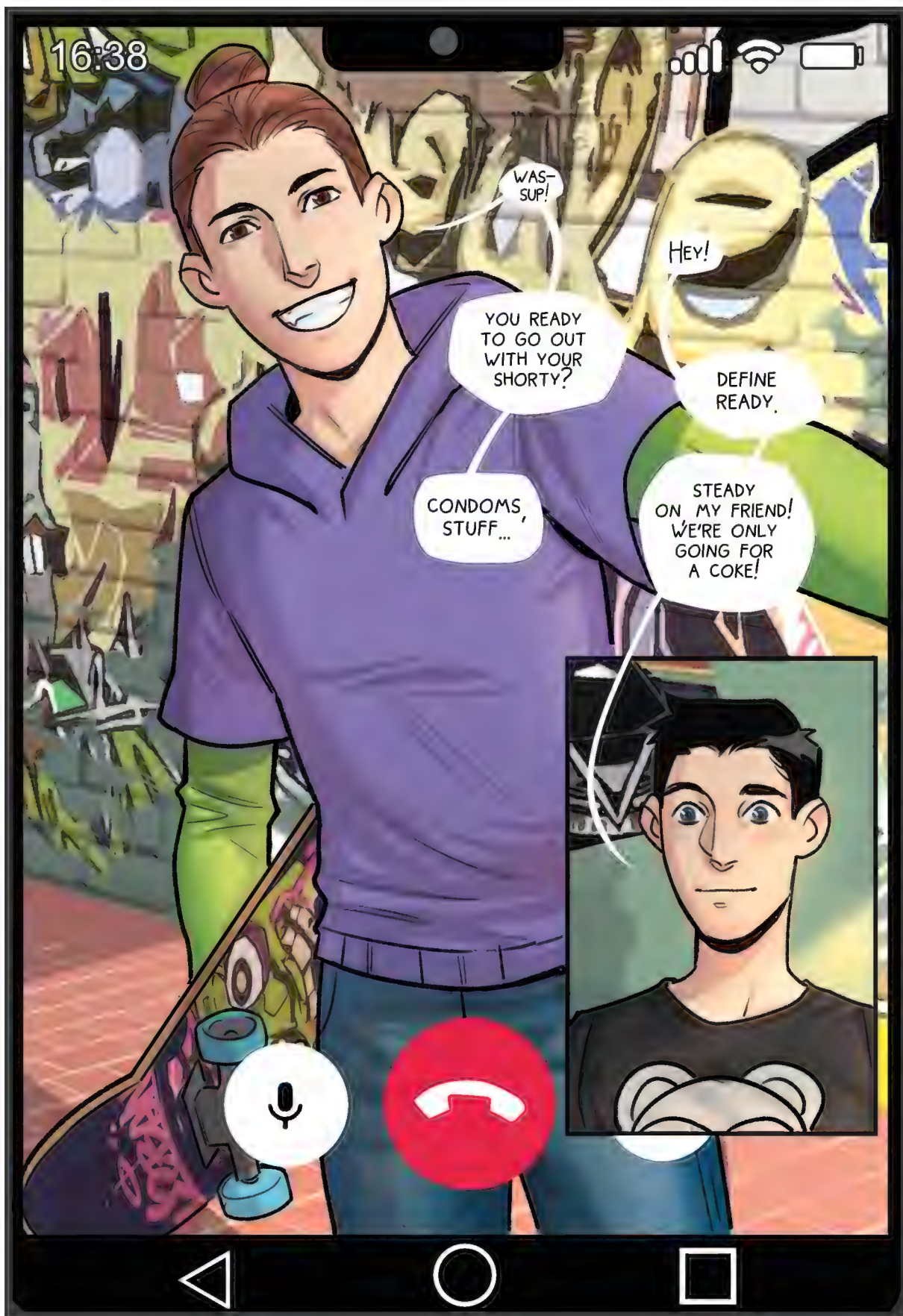
LISTEN TO ME

CARMEN GUASCO, MARTA MACOLINO, ALESSIA DE SIO









16:38



WAS-SUP!

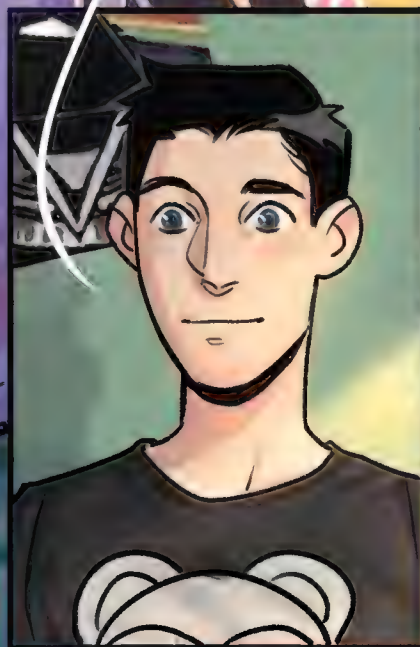
HEY!

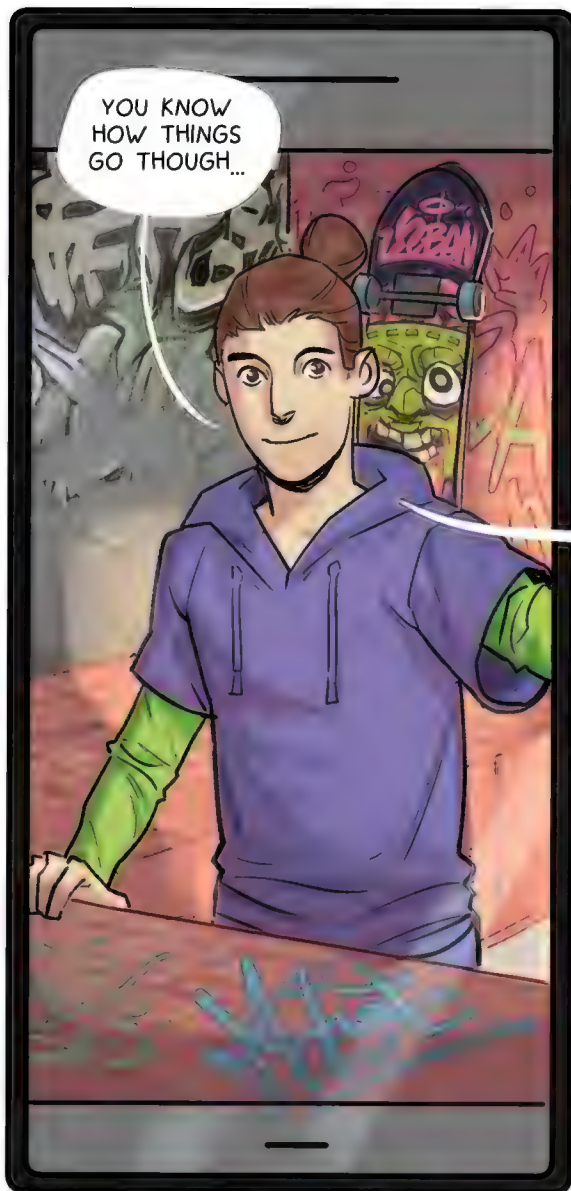
YOU READY TO GO OUT WITH YOUR SHORTY?

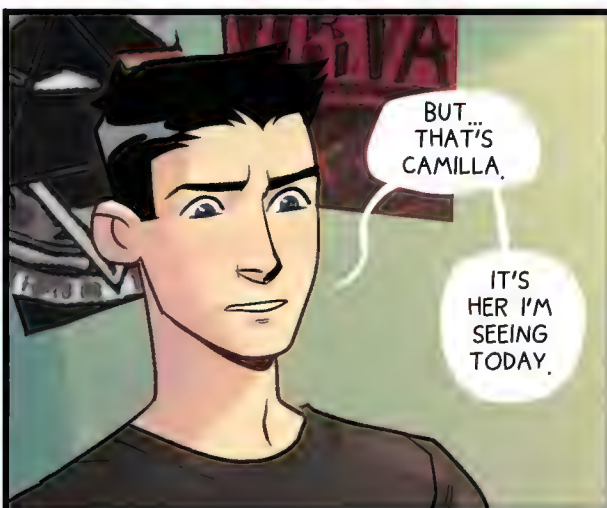
DEFINE READY.

CONDOMS, STUFF...

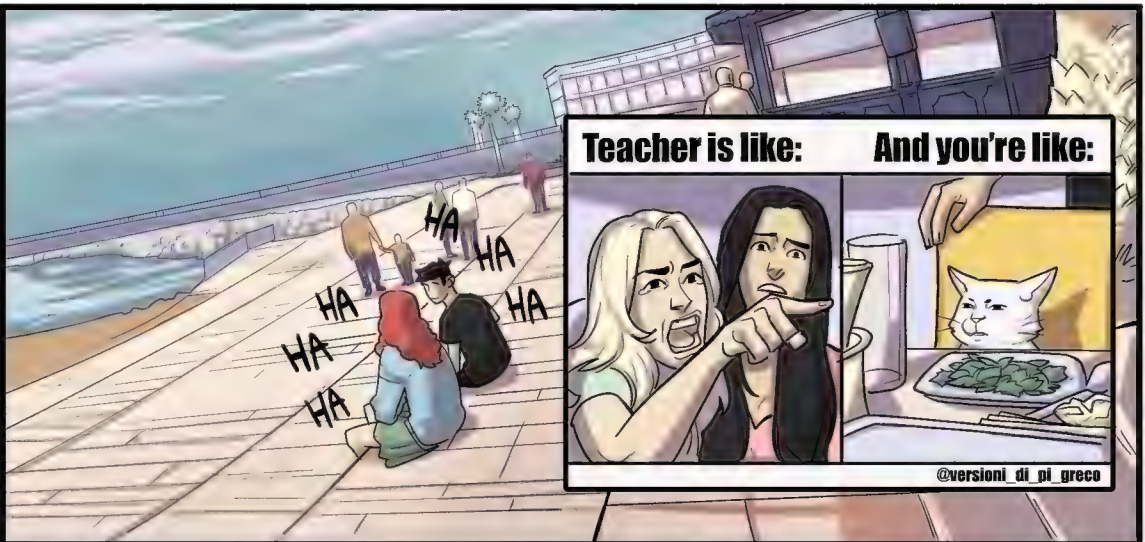
STEADY ON, MY FRIEND! WE'RE ONLY GOING FOR A COKE!



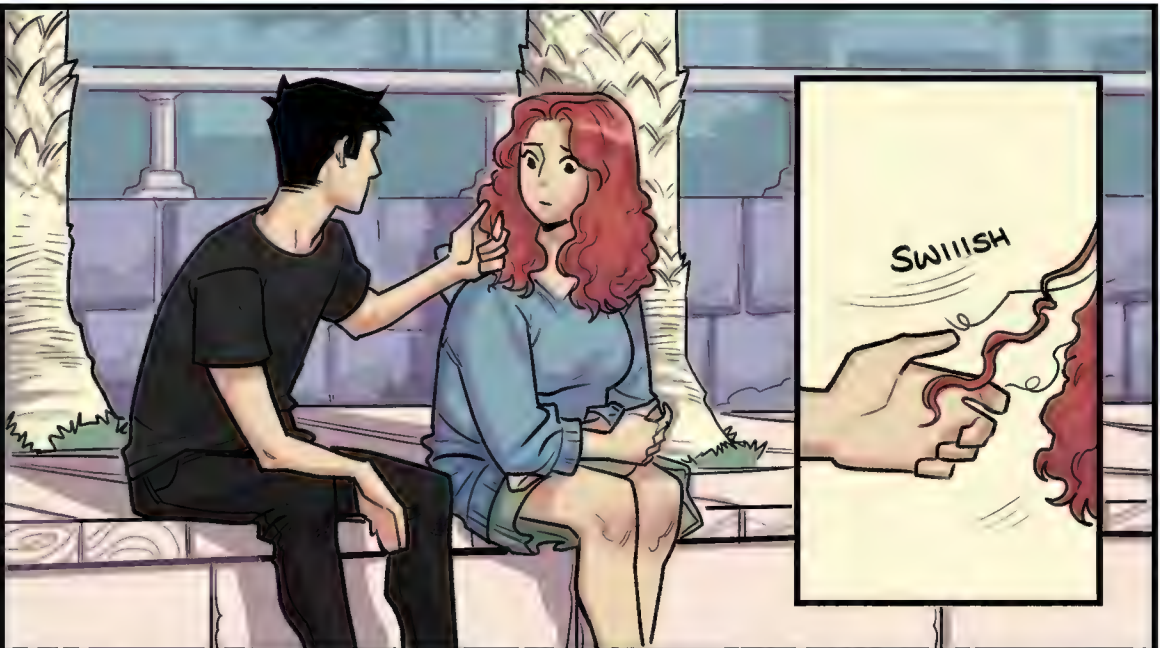
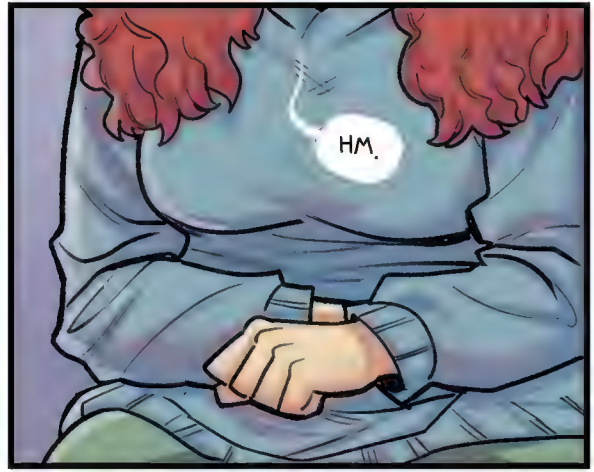
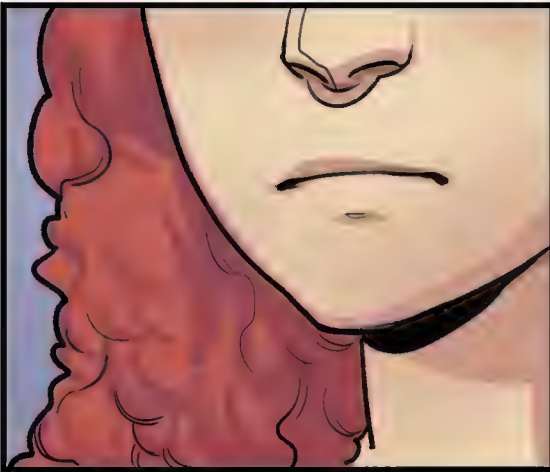






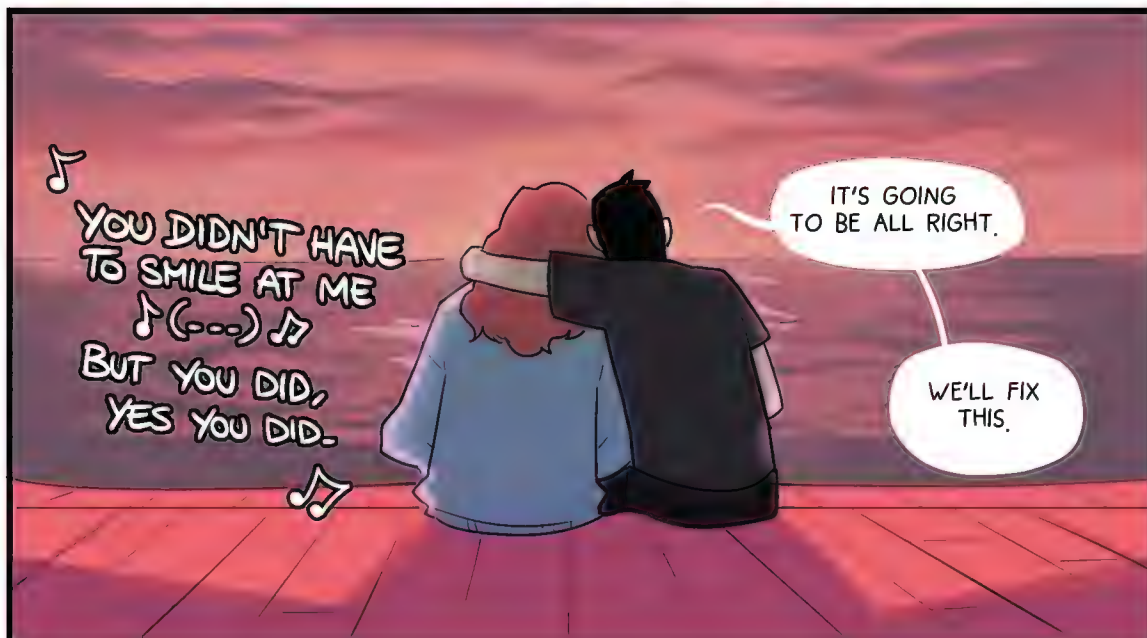
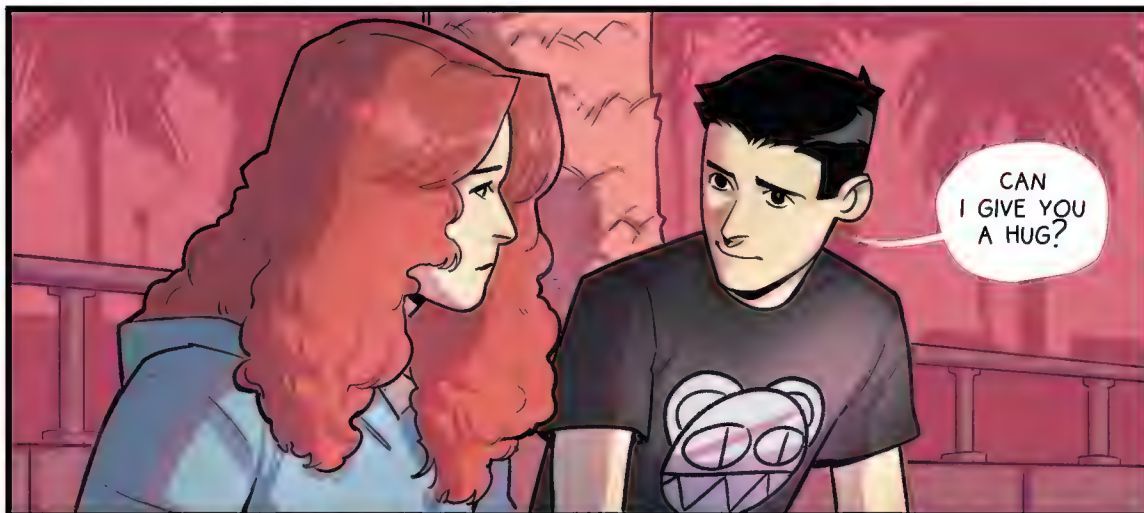


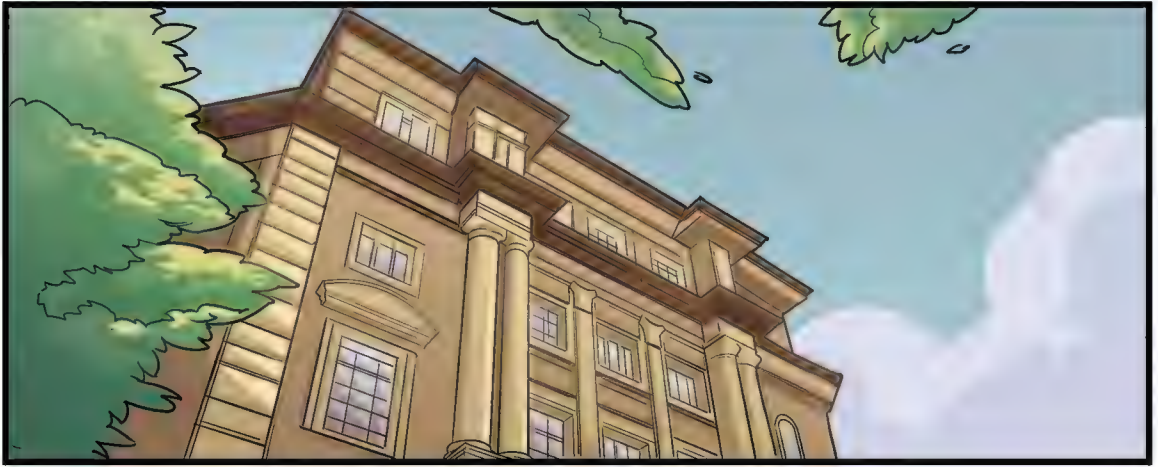




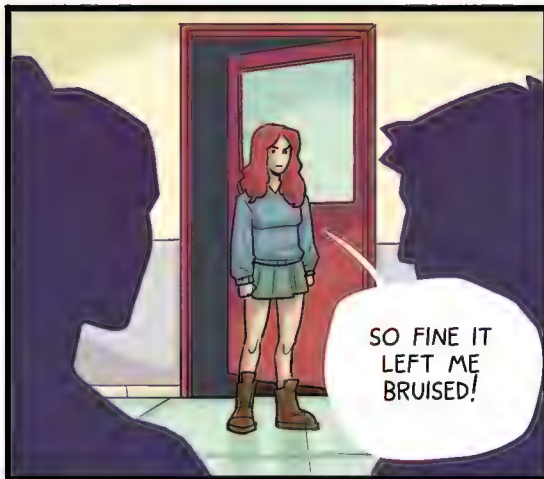


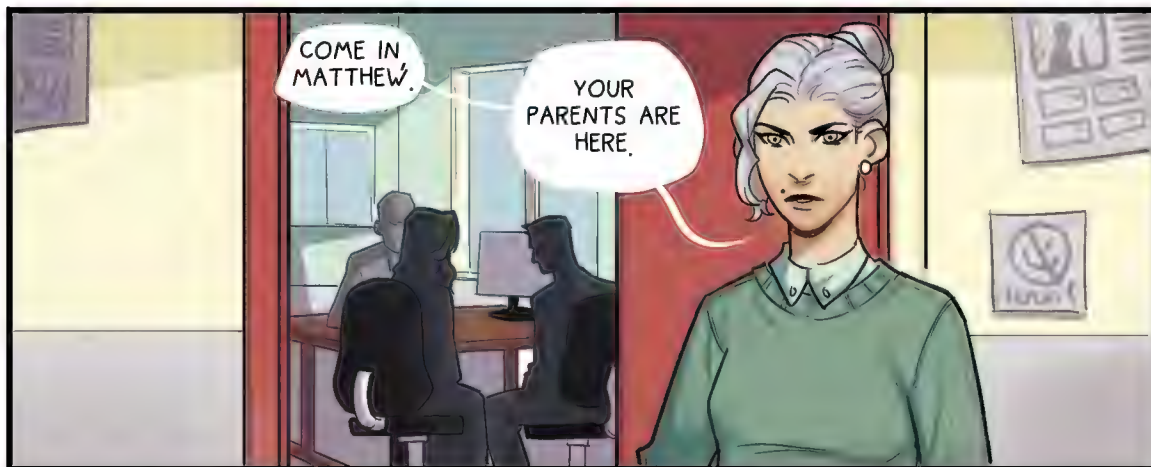














ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Eleonora Antonioni: I would like to thank Chiara Arienti (and Il Castoro), Lucia Biagi, and Marta Baroni for their valuable advice. I am grateful to the MOLESTE collective for being here, for doing such great work, and for inviting me to be part of this project. *The font used in the story was designed by Eleonora Antonioni and Gabriele Munafò.*

Anna Cercignano: My thanks go to Chiara and Giusy, who enabled us to give life to a tool that will help parents to start afresh, teachers to be prepared, and young people to be more aware. And I am also thankful for everyone in MOLESTE, who extended an unexpectedly warm welcome to me within this project.

Davide Costa: Thank you, Eli. Without your illustrations and your vision, this story would never have made it onto paper. And thank you to all my friends: you make me less toxic, one step at a time.

Alessia De Sio: To the frightened girl in the mirror: keep looking straight ahead.

Caterina Ferrante: Thanks for patience (other people's), coffee, and everyone who brings it to me.

Carmen Guasco: I thank you, because you listened to me.

Vega Guerrieri: I would like to thank Valerio for always being there for me, and Francesca, Cate, and Margo, who believed in me more than I did and helped me get over my usual wall of misgivings.

Laura Guglielmo: As usual, my thanks go to Ariel, who puts up with my storyboards via Telegram, and most of all to Greta Xella for her sensitivity and valuable creative advice.

Marta Macolino: Huge thanks from the bottom of my heart to Carmen Guasco and Alessia De Sio, without whom this project would never have come into being. And big hugs to everyone in MOLESTE for building a support network that rocks. You are living proof that we are far stronger when we are together.

Maurizia Rubino: I would like to dedicate this, with heartfelt thanks, to all the wonderful women in my family.

Francesca Torre: To David, to Martina. In short, to my family.

All the authors also wish to extend their thanks to Fra and Margo, who put their time and energy into coordinating this group.

Francesca and Margherita wish to thank Grazia La Padula for the incredibly beautiful book cover design; Sara Fabbri (you know why!); and Francesca Ciregia, Claudia Iannicello, Susanna Raule, Sara Pichelli, Sonia Aloï, Serena Angelelli, Ester Cardella, Gilda Fabiano, and Deborah Tommasini for their constant support and encouragement.

Last but not least, our thanks go to the publishers, in particular Giusy and Chiara, for their valuable work; to Jennifer Guerra for her lovely contribution; and to all the artists who contributed their talents and stories to this anthology.

MOLESTE

MOLESTE officially came into being on October 27, 2020, the day the collective first published its manifesto—signed by more than fifty artists—on its website and on social media. That day was the outcome of a gestation period that had begun in the summer, when news reached us from America that certain well-known authors had been accused of grooming and harassing their female colleagues.

The shock waves that news sent through Italy were then reflected in an article by Francesca Torre, which sketched an outline of the Italian situation based on a number of testimonies (anonymized to protect their sources). It quickly became clear that we needed to create a virtual space in which everyone interested in these issues could engage with them. Soon afterward, a

shared feeling emerged that this needed to be a long-term project that was connected with the need to talk about gender equality, including within professional and educational comics circles.

From its outset, the collective's objectives were to listen to anyone who has experienced sexual or homophobic harassment, to create a support network in collaboration with domestic violence resource centers, to raise public awareness of harassment and related issues, and to analyze and break down gender and identity stereotypes within the world of comics.

In March 2021, MOLESTE took part in its first public art installation with the exhibition *LE Articolo AutoDeterminativo*, produced by CHEAP Festival in Bologna. The exhibition consisted of eleven posters—prominently displayed along two highly frequented streets—by artists Susanna Mariani, La Tram, Deborah Tommasini, Sonia Aloï, Elisa2B, Francesca Ciregia, Grazia La Padula, Helena Masellis, Caterina Ferrante, Claudia Ianniciello, and Ariel Vittori, which tell stories of female and LGBTQI+ self-determination, depicting several key milestones on a journey that is as yet unfinished.

The collective's coordination team is made up of **Sonia Aloï, Serena Angelelli, Ester Cardella, Francesca Ciregia, Sara Fabbri, Gilda Fabiano, Caterina Ferrante, Carmen Guasco, Vega Guerrieri, Claudia Ianniciello, Grazia La Padula, Sara Pichelli, Susanna Raule, Deborah Tommasini, Francesca Torre, Elisa2B, and La Tram.**

If you are part of an organization that is interested in collaborating with the collective, please write to us at: info@moleste.org

SOME USEFUL RESOURCES

If you have experienced harassment or feel that you need help, contact:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

800-799-SAFE (7233)

www.thehotline.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline

800-656-HOPE (4673)

www.rainn.org

Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

1-866-331-9474

www.loveisrespect.org

MOLESTE actively collaborates with a number of antiviolence centers. A full, up-to-date list of our partner organizations can be found on our Italian website at: www.moleste.org



WINNER OF THE BOSCARATO AWARD FOR BEST YA GRAPHIC NOVEL!



“NO ONE CAN DO IT FOR YOU, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE.”

Big names in Italian comics gather in a unique and powerful anthology to say they've had enough of gender-based violence. Ellie, Sabrina, Rose, Laura, Liz, Camilla. Their stories touch us deeply because they happen to us too—and to our sisters, friends, and neighbors.

Sometimes we don't even realize it, we minimize it, we don't have the tools to understand, react, talk about it out loud. And that's exactly why this book was born: to break the silence and fill it with our stories and our words, to ensure that situations like these never happen again.

Gender-based violence takes many forms, from subtle manipulation to outright physical abuse, and it knows no boundaries. *Loud: Stories to Make Your Voice Heard* is a powerful anthology curated by a feminist collective of Italian comics creators working in solidarity to unite, support, and empower others in the fight against toxic masculinity, both in the comics industry and beyond.

